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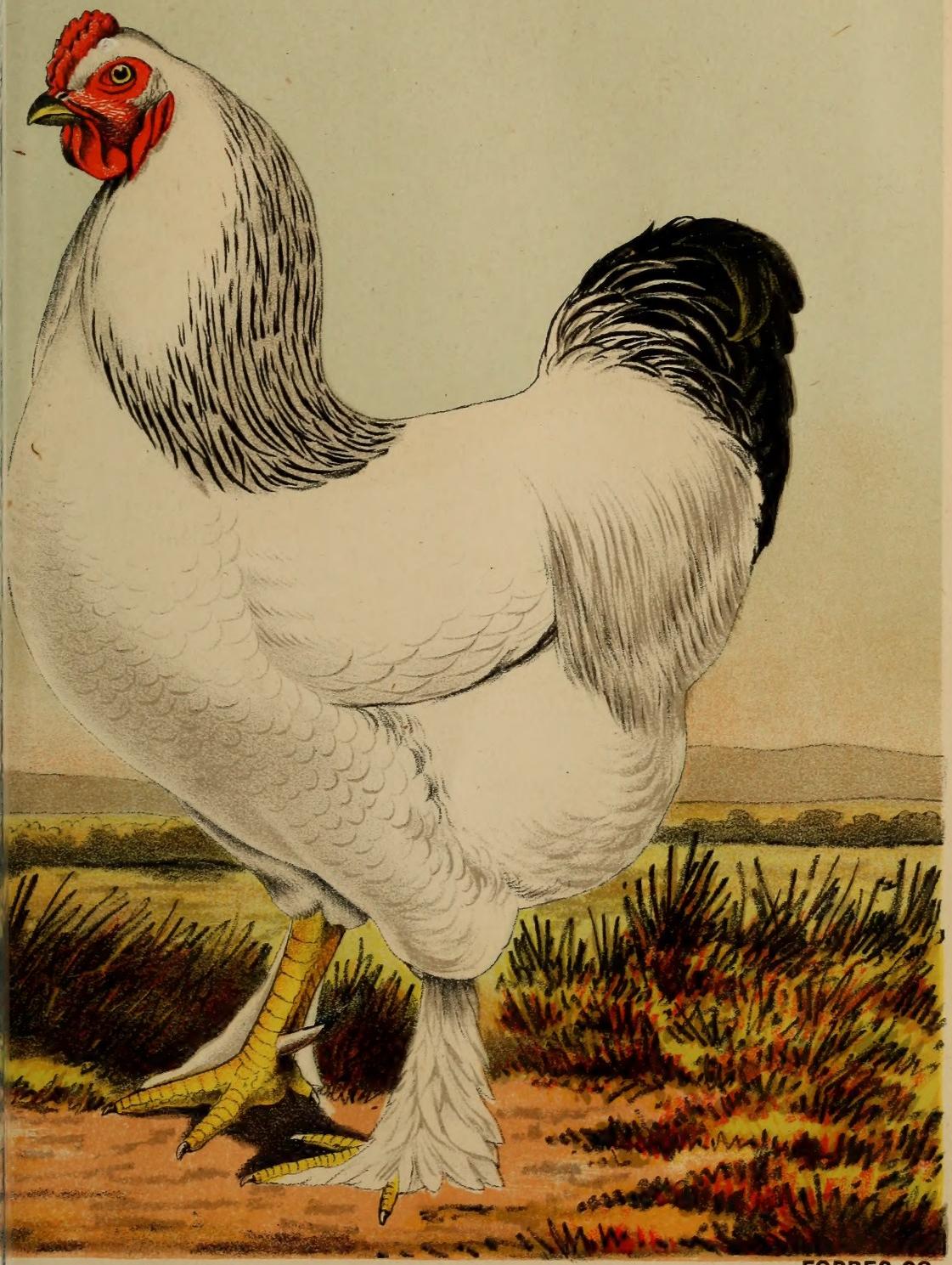
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Drawn from Life.

STANDARD LIGHT BRAHMA

Bred by GEO. P. BURKE



FORBES CO.

HMAS.—COCK AND HEN.

AM, MELROSE, MASS., 1879.



PART SEVEN.

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HOW TO BREED  
LIGHT  
BRAHMA FOWLS.



BY GEO. P. BURNHAM.

U.S. PATENT OFFICE LIBRARY  
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1879  
MELROSE, MASS.

With Chromo of Prize Birds, and numerous Engravings.

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MELROSE, MASS.

1879.

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## PREFACE.

I shall not offer any apology, or explanation, for publishing *this* book!

Thirty years ago, the now famous and justly popular LIGHT BRAHMA FOWLS were originated in my poultry yards, in Massachusetts.

We called them then, and for several years subsequently, by another name. Dr. John C. Bennett, (an enthusiastic but notional fancier), gave my fowls a new name, one day; he called them "Burramooters." Then they were dubbed "Brahma Pootras." Finally, we came to know them as *Brahmas*.

This was an unimportant matter. The *stock* was the same. I called it — years ago — Gray Shanghae; because the original fowls were Chinese, and mine came from Shanghae. But BRAHMA is a good name — short, quick, expressive; and is that given in Eastern countries to the highest heathen Deity.

The *Dark Brahma*s I also originated, (at Melrose, Mass.), and the first of *this* variety that was ever seen in the world, I sent to England, in 1853. Mr. Tegetmeier, Editor of the "London Field," named this breed "Dark Brahma." I did not. *Both* varieties were bred from the same original stock, however!

They have proved a wonderful variety of parti-colored domestic poultry — enormous in size, beautiful in color, symmetrical in proportions, hardy in constitution, most excellent layers, and in every respect *par excellence*, to-day. they are the grand favorites of four-fifths of all the fowl-fanciers on both sides of the Atlantic.

I am asked a thousand times in a year, by my correspondents, "How do you breed your Light Brahma?" When my stock goes into the Show-room, everybody enquires "How do you breed these splendid birds?" Hundreds of visitors to my yards during each succeeding season, annually, query "How do you raise these beautiful fowls?"

These questions are answered in the following pages. And this is the excuse I give for publishing another book, in the form which has proved so acceptable to the public as have its predecessors — Parts No. 1 to No. 6, inclusive.

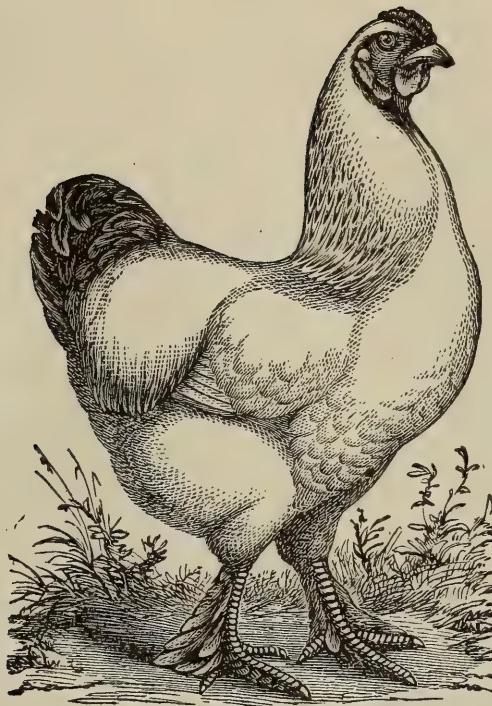
The "Leghorns," the "Plymouth Rocks," the "Game Fowls" each have a book lately put forth, specially extolling their several good qualities. Why should not the splendid BRAHMAS have a treatise devoted to their rare merits exclusively, standing as they do among the foremost of modern improved fowls?

I think the thousands of American breeders who now cultivate this superior stock will agree with me that we certainly should have a volume "all about the *Brahmas*." And therefore I have added this treatise to my series of popular 50 cent books, this year.

I trust it may gratify and instruct all who are interested in the culture of this choice breed. And I remain, fraternally,

GEO. P. BURNHAM.

Cottage Street, Melrose, Mass. May, 1879.



## PART SEVEN.

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### THE LIGHT BRAHMA FOWL

STANDS pre-eminently at the head of the poultry race, at the present day, in the justifiable esteem of all who have ever intelligently cultivated the genuine well-bred birds now known among us under this appellation.

There is no one desirable quality possessed by *any* other variety of domestic fowl stock, that *this* breed may not lay claim to—in greater or less degree.

They are exceedingly hardy, and are easily grown, anywhere. They are good feeders, and are ordinarily but little liable to disease. The hens are superior layers, and for *weight* of eggs in a twelvemonth, there are none that excel them, in this particular.

They attain to the largest size, at maturity, of all known breeds—the best cocks drawing  $14\frac{1}{2}$  to  $15\frac{1}{2}$  pounds not infrequently, at two years old; and the finest hens bringing up the beam at 12 or 13 pounds weight, at the same age.

Their average color, pencilling and markings are exquisitely beautiful. In form and proportions, both cocks and hens—when filled out, maturely—are unexceptionable in symmetry. If properly fed, from the shell upward, and decently cared for constantly, the young stock make excellent broilers, the cockerels fine roasters, in the fall of the year, and the male birds if changed to *capons* at the right age, make the very best dressed poultry and the largest, at twelve to fourteen months old, that have ever been seen in this country.

The hens lay well in winter, too—if proper care is taken to have them hatched early in the spring season, previously. I have had hundreds of these pullets commence laying in November and December, that kept on laying, with but brief resting terms meanwhile, away into the late succeeding spring.

I have also very frequently raised scores of pullets which commenced to lay in the fall, that have laid quite well through the winter months, though not so steadily after December, as previously. These were February hatched chickens.

March and April hatched Brahma chicks, if well fed, will very regularly make good early winter layers, when provided with comfortable cold-weather quarters, and furnished with the right kinds of egg-making food.

They are the most peaceable fowls on earth—not excepting the Cochins—and a dozen can be comfortably kept, to profitable account, in a ten feet square yard. They will eat anything, and thrive upon the commonest of provender.

Their eggs are the meatiest, and the choicest flavored of all known varieties. This is the unanimous verdict of *all* housekeepers who have had this breed of fowls in their purity about the homestead or farm-house, and who have taken the trouble to compare their product with that of other kinds of domestic fowls.

The hens are the very kindest of mothers. The well selected

cocks are the best of stock-getters known. And the sires of this race will more regularly, more steadily, and more generally stamp their good quality, decided color, and fine points upon their progeny, in the course of successive years, than will any bird we have had any knowledge of; and we have bred the Brahmams, now, for more than three decades, successively and successfully—as every one acquainted with the history of this famous breed is aware.

The meat of the Brahma, when properly fed for table use, is as juicy, as delicate, and as palateable as is that of the choicest young turkey. If the stock birds are starved, while growing up, they are no better for consumption than are other fowls, thus inhumanely and injudiciously treated.

For grand size, then—for average weights, for beauty of plumage, for accuracy in re-production, for quiet demeanor, for fine proportions, for stamina and healthy constitution, for layers, for table use, and for any or all the good qualities requisite to the complete make-up of first class fowl stock, in every respect—I claim for my always admired and superb Light Brahmams the palm as the **BEST** in the world to-day! “And this I am free to maintain.”



THIS PICTURE OF A LIGHT BRAHMA PULLET,

is a very clever drawing of one of the most extraordinary birds of the class, that I ever bred or saw. She was scored at the Hartford, Conn., State Poultry Exhibition in 1878 at  $98\frac{3}{4}$  points, by three judges, and her weight was but  $9\frac{1}{2}$  pounds, at that show.

Her mate, whose portrait is given on page 3 of this volume, took first premium at that same show, and was scored by two other judges at  $99\frac{3}{4}$  points — his weight being then thirteen and three quarter pounds, as cockerel.\*

This pullet with another fine cockerel, that same season at Portland took the \$100 Gold Prize, at the Maine State Society's show, in 1878. And this latter cock, with a very fine hen, I sent to J. M. Milliken, of Fenton, Mich., a few weeks after Mr. Case procured from me the pair that had become famous, from their remarkable record as "99 $\frac{3}{4}$ " and "98 $\frac{3}{4}$ ."

No birds I ever knew among the Light Brahmans, have shown this high scoring, before or since the above described pair were thus scaled. The Judges were all experts, and this record was accordingly the more valuable and more gratifying — when it turned out that six different umpires passed upon the merits of these two young fowls, and all agreed in their individual score, to within a fraction of the above astonishing maximum in points of excellence.

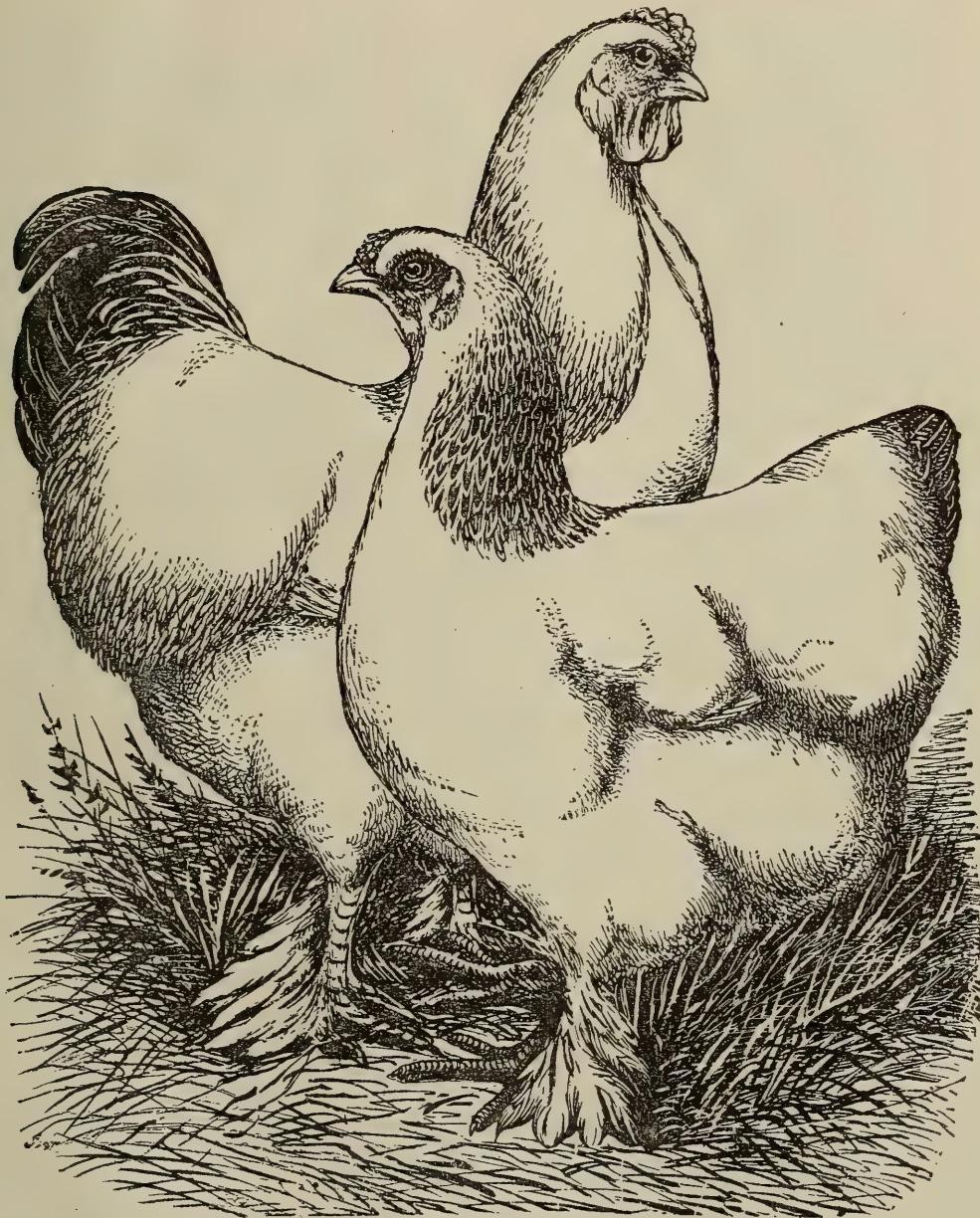
In 1878 and '79 I bred from these and several other superior fowls of their age, or older, a goodly flock of Light Brahmans — from which I have made selections of some very promising young birds for my next season's sales.

And I am convinced that continual care, only, in this matter of *selection* and appropriate *mating* of our birds, year after year, tends to the constant and noticeable improvement of the progeny we obtain; however fine or exceptional we may chance to grow a few pairs, or individual specimens, from season to season.

The result of my last two year's matings is satisfactory.

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\*This splendid pair of birds I sold early in 1879 to Julian M. Case, Esq., of Lansing, Mich., who is breeding them with some other choice stock, the present season.



LIGHT BRAHMA COCK AND PULLET,

hatched in 1878. The form and color of this fine pair are very good, though the cock is too darkly marked to answer as a mate for *breeding*, with so dark a hackled hen; while as Show fowls, these are very nicely matched, in body color.

Experience in mating, has confirmed me in my long entertained belief that a matter of the highest importance in breeding the Brahma fowl successfully, is that we know *how* this should be done, to begin with — and that we should every season pay the strictest attention to such

#### APPROPRIATE MATING AND SELECTION.

The best fowls in the world, *otherwise* — if not judiciously **MATED** as breeders — will yield the fancier little or no satisfaction, in their progeny. The laws of nature are fixed, and immutable, in this regard. If we do not conform to the true principles of reproduction, when we place the sexes together for this purpose, we must not expect to obtain from such mis-mating the results we should prefer.

There is but one way through which we can obtain among the Light Brahmams, for example, the evenly pencilled hackles, the clear white bodies nowadays so popular and desirable in this breed, the clean black tail, and wing-flights “black or nearly so,” (required by our Standard), and not get anything else, in spots or splashes, upon the pullets.

There is but a single method by which we can turn out such cockerels among the chicks we hatch as are most desirable, in this variety ; and this is to *mate* the parents properly, so that we can re-produce a given type of male bird — in the average — such as will come up to our wishes in this matter of color.

If we have extreme dark hackled hens, or pullets, at the start, and the male parent we chance upon is a “good match,” apparently, (because his neck is also darkly pencilled), we should not place these two closely matching birds together to *breed* from, at all !

And why ? Simply because they do not belong together. They are not fitted (in color) for each other. They are very handsome it may be, to look at, in the Show pen ; but they are not suitable to be mated, for breeding purposes.

And wherefore ?

Because there is no diversity of color in the same parts of the two fowls. There is no preponderance of white to

counterpoise the black feathering, or *vice versa*. You have a black-necked cock and a black-necked pullet, for instance—almost precisely alike, in general hue of plumage.

Now, breed these two together, and you get spotted chicks, with dark under-fluff, speckled backs, and patched hackles, for the most part, when hatched from the eggs such colored pullets will lay, after being in union with similarly dark-plumed cocks. There is no exception to this rule, and there is no escape from the results of this erroneous style of mating.

But, suppose you have this same dark-necked sort of pullet (no matter how distinctly black her hackles are pencilled), and you choose to mate her to a suitably colored cock bird to offset, or counter-balance, this extreme dark hackle and blackness of plumage in other portions of her body.

What comes of this union?

Just what you are aiming for. The "happy medium" in color of neck, tail, and wing-tips on your pullets, and an average of good color upon the cockerels—in the main.

Not always thus, however.

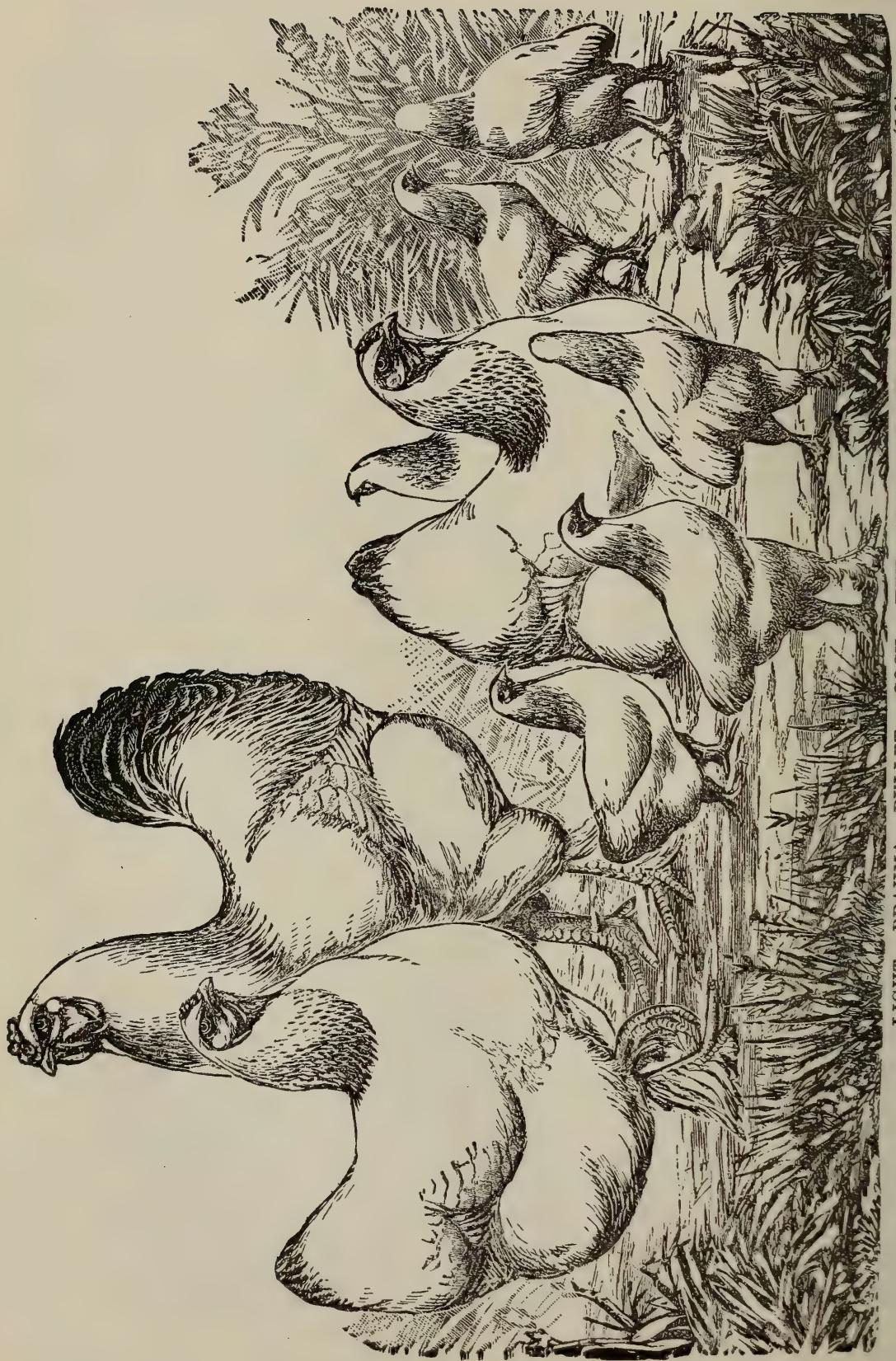
The fact must be understood that this *color* in the Brahmans is made up of two opposite distinct hues: white and black.

If one of these colors preponderates upon the hens or pullets used for breeders, then you must balance this by mating them to a *light-colored* hackled cock.

If you put a similarly *dark-necked* cock with them, you get nothing but dark, speckled, and unevenly spotted-backed chicks. The result is inevitable, and follows, every time..

Bearing this fact in mind, do not fly to the other extreme. If your hens or pullets have very light neck-hackles and exceptionally white body color, look to it that the cock mated with them for breeding purposes has a clearly defined black striped neck, with good show of black wing-flights, and especially a well formed clear metallic black tail.

Such a union of sexes will produce good colored chicks, almost invariably; although the cocks may not *all* precisely "fill the bill" to the closely critical eye of the expert.



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LIGHT BRAHMA PULLET, COCK, HEN AND CHICKENS.

On the opposite page we give a fine drawing from life of a Light Brahma cock past two years old, in his best condition, which we have bred one season, and have mated this year again to a pen of ten or eleven extra sized hens. His weight, before he was placed in the breeding-run in January 1879, was a trifle over fifteen pounds.

We have never been an advocate for *extreme* "heavy weights" in either the Light or Dark Brahmams, for *cock* birds. We do not care how large our *hens* grow. At full maturity, if the flesh is good, and they are not over-fat, inside or outside, we do not mind how heavy they are. The larger the better, for hens.

But the popular rage is for *large* Brahmams. And if the cockerels do not weigh 11 to 12 pounds, now, at ten to twelve months old, with pullet-mates of same age drawing  $8\frac{1}{2}$  to 10 pounds each, the stock of any prominent breeder of this notable variety is deemed inferior. While, at two years of age, cocks must draw 14 to 15 pounds, to be the most desirable; and hens 11 to 12 pounds each to match them, are only considered first class birds, worthy to command "fancy figures" in their price.

The desire on the part of Americans to own the biggest crower, and the heaviest kind of hen, is a singular notion. Yet it is a universal hobby, and leading breeders of this stalwart variety are now compelled to humor this fancy.

For my own uses, I prefer a male Light Brahma that will weigh at maturity plump twelve to thirteen pounds, to one that is heavier. I have found that such a cock is a better average sire, in many ways. He will serve his hens more surely, and eggs laid by his mates will be more generally fertilized, take the breeding season through.

Besides this, such a crower will not tear the feathers from the backs and flanks of his companions, as will the larger, and always clumsier, cocks. There is not that danger of breaking down the hens, or dislocating their wings, often, with the lighter weighted male bird, that follows from using the awkward heavy cocks.

But these objections the novice knows nothing of ; and every buyer of Light Brahma now-a-days, seeks first to know if your breeding stock is the *largest* in creation,—bigger, heavier, taller, than are Burnham's, Williams', Felch's, Comey's, Joselyn's, Bucknam's, Buzzell's, or "any other man's!"

If not, and you cannot satisfy him of this, he doesn't want *your* fowls, and he will decline to buy them.

It therefore becomes a necessity to grow the bulkier sort, as nearly as may be accomplished ; or step aside from the current of competition at the present day. Still we individually contend that

#### GREAT SIZE IS NOT EVERYTHING

that should claim our attention, or fill us with admiration, in estimating the qualities of good Light Brahma fowls. Indeed, as we have so often written, in our mature judgment oversized male birds of this variety are not so desirable for breeders as are the full medium weight cocks.

And we have now briefly given our reasons for this opinion, which we have entertained through many years of practical experience in breeding both kinds, very largely.

We may here appropriately refer to well known sires that have earned a wide-spread reputation, which we know were of mammoth proportions, themselves, and from which have been bred hundreds or thousands of the *largest* Light Brahma cocks and hens that have ever been produced in succession.

The old " *Autocrat* " cock, which Mr. Estes, of New York, found some years ago, (he says in Fulton Market,) was one of these coarse overgrown birds, that has a well known history, (through his progeny,) at the present day. He was " said to be an imported bird," the seller avowing this to Mr. Estee ; so writes I. K. Felch, Esq., in his " Manual."

Where he was imported from, who bred him, whether he originated in Philadelphia, Long Island, at Melrose, Mass., " up the Bramapootra River, which empties into the Bay of Bengal," or elsewhere, no one ever took the trouble to learn.

But as Mr. Felch records the fact that " Autocrat was bred

one season (1865) to hens whose foundation-blood was the G. P. Burnham birds (being the progeny of the stock sent to Queen Victoria by that gentleman,) "and farther, that in 1866 "Mr. Estes presented old '*Autocrat*' to Mr. Williams, of Taunton, who bred him to the best birds he could procure," afterwards, it is very clear to our mind that all this notable stock, like that of the "*Colossus*" blood, the "*Duke of York*," the "*Tees*" birds, etc., trace their lineage away back into my runs at Roxbury, or Melrose, Mass.

At any rate, if Mr. Estes bought old "*Autocrat*" in Fulton Market in 1865, he must know that whoever sold him that bird then as an "imported" fowl, deceived him; inasmuch as the war was just closed in that year, and no foreign vessels were then arriving at New York, with "imported" birds, that we were aware of.\*

It is altogether immaterial where old "*Autocrat*" came from, however. He was a good bird, and one of the heavy-weight Light Brahmans, that has left "his mark" upon the race now alive in the United States.

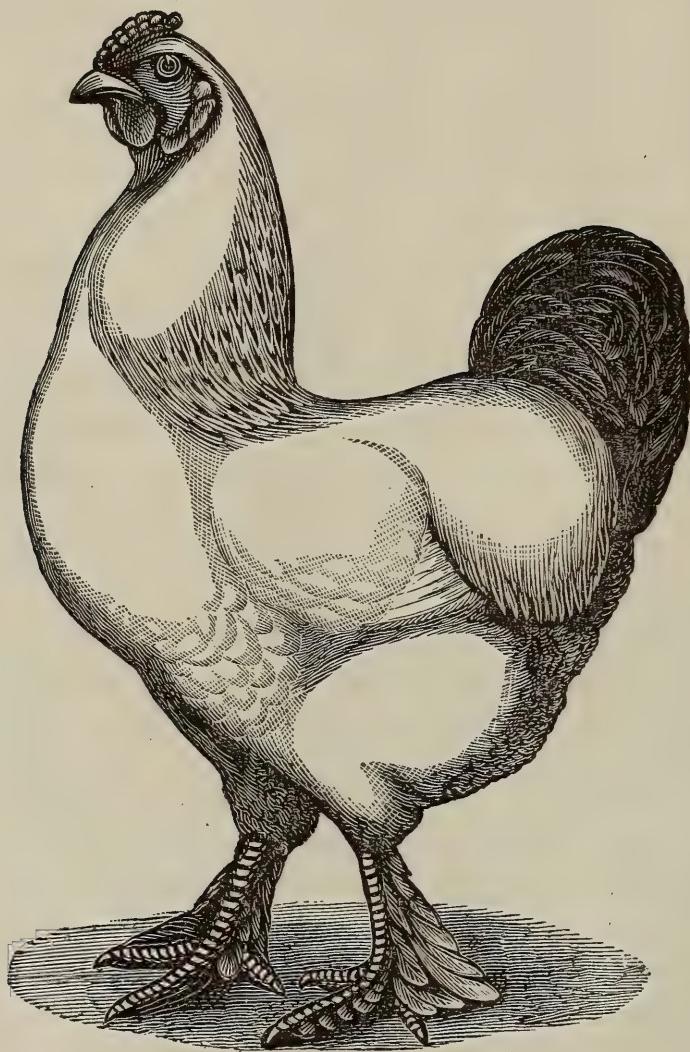
His progeny of both sexes have been bred with the "*Duke of York*" blood — another splendid Light Brahma cock fortunately first possessed by E. C. Comey, and it has also been intermingled with the Burnham strain, the Philadelphia stock, and the Buzzell or Sturtevant line of Light Brahmans — to very good advantage.

Upon the following page we give a very fair representation of this well known fowl, from a sketch taken of the cock when he was past two years old, and in possession of Mr. Williams, of Taunton.

This noted Light Brahma cock was a very large-framed bird, of goodly shape, but darkish in general color, as compared with the plumage that decorated Comey's "*Duke of York*." His comb was very large, and his under-color decidedly *dark*. This latter failing proved an hereditary blemish; as, in several

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\*This story is "too thin." It is worse than the Sailor's yarn, or the Knox, Box, Cox tale, by Plaisted.



OLD AUTOCRAT, AT TWO YEARS OLD.

of his sons, bred from hens originally crossed to old “*Autocrat*,” this same dingy under-fluff prevailed.

A serious objection also existed in the comb of old “*Autocrat*.” It was not only over-sized, but it was weak at the base. In the progeny — down to the present day — this bad feature is well known to crop out, wherever the larger cockerels are produced ; and this ill-shaped, clumpy, weak-based comb is

seen upon three-fourths of all the stock at present grown, which comes from this early blood.

Mr. Plaisted bred this stock in Connecticut, for a while. He claimed that his fowls were of the "Knox-Chamberlain" strain, whatever that may have been. But all the characteristics of Mr. P.'s. fowls, of either sex, exhibited the traits possessed by the "*Autocrat*" strain, and Mr. P. himself has publicly stated that he purchased some of his larger breeding cocks and hens of Mr. Estes, direct; with whom old "*Autocrat*" appears to have originated.

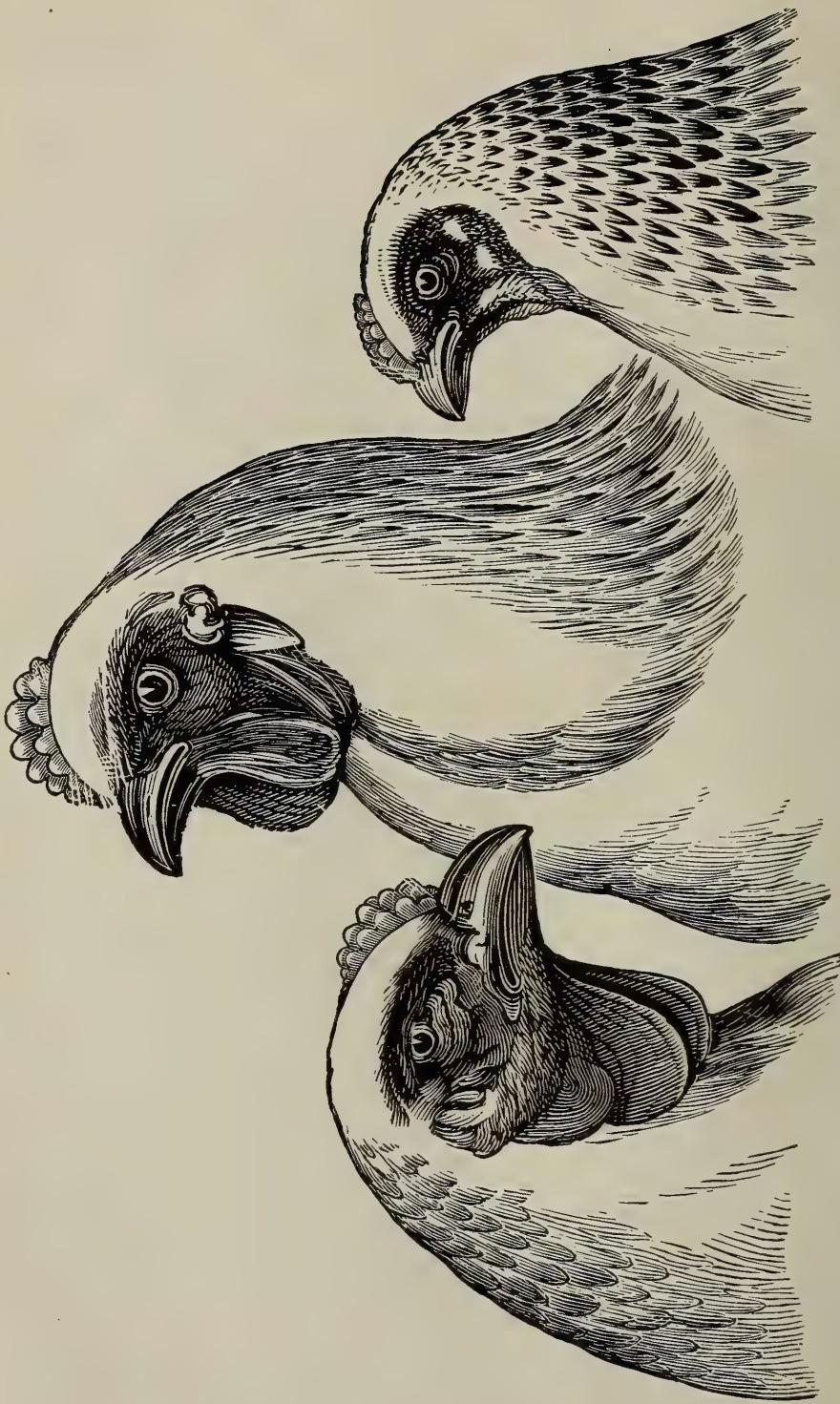
It is certainly true, then, that the Plaisted birds, (bred by him at Hartford), were of this lineage, and he announced at one time the purchase of the contents of Mr. Emory Carpenter's extensive yards, there; which contained several samples of this same *Autocrat* strain of noted "pedigreed" Light Brahmases. He also owned three cocks, brothers of Collosus, (which latter was a son of old "*Autocrat*"), bought of Mr. Williams.

Wherever this large blood has been bred, it has given general satisfaction. In the public exhibitions, the sons and daughters of the cocks and pullets bred from old "*Autocrat*," even when crossed upon other strains of note, have always attracted marked attention, and in numerous instances these have for years proved first and second winners, all over the country.

And their chief recommendation has been their grand *size*. Innumerable pens of Light Brahmases that have been placed in competition beside them, which in the opinion of good judges possessed all the "points" of finer color, better symmetry, far more perfect pea-combs, more compact and shapely bodies, less inclination to "wrytails" or twisted wing-flights, etc., have been ignored; and the heavier weights have carried away the coveted prizes, to the disappointment and chagrin of their modest owners.

Yet such is the prevalent taste, and no argument about utility carries a feather's weight with the ambitious crowd, who clamor for "the biggest kind o' Light Brahma we can get, *any how!*"

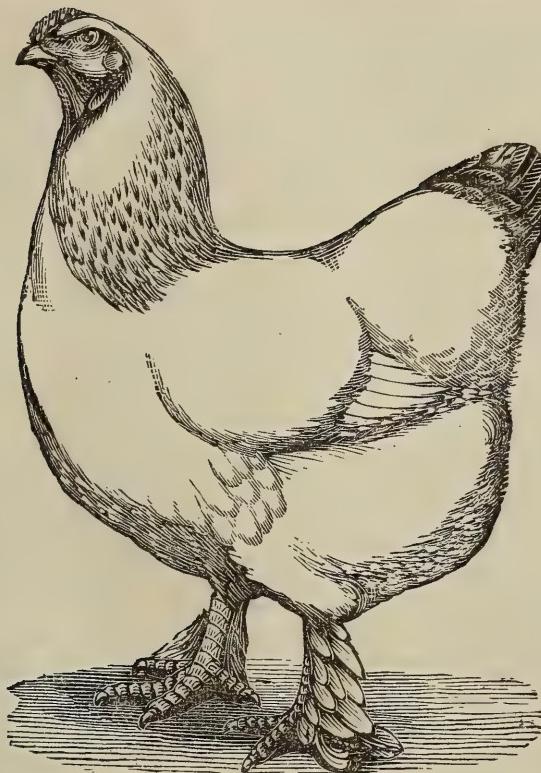
HEADS OF LIGHT BRAHMA BIRDS.



THREE YEARS OLD HEN.

MATURE COCK

YEARLING PULLET.



Above we give a portrait of one of Mr. Williams' hens. Her *under-color* is very dark, however, and mated with an "Autocrat" cock, she would throw speckled or clouded backed chickens, seven times in ten, from all the eggs she laid.

#### MY "BRAHMA KING," AND "QUEEN."

The handsomely executed *Chromo* frontispiece which decorates this volume, represents two of my aged Light Brahma fowls, that I consider very superior birds; though the drawing originally made of them by Mr. Porter (for the "Poultry World") was taken when the hen was past four years old. The cock averages about fourteen pounds weight, and is now coming four years of age, in May, 1879.

This noble pair are the parents of more fine chickens, I think, than have ever been raised from any two Light Brahmases in America. And with the single exception of the two old first prize fowls shown at the Massachusetts Poultry Society's ex-

hibition in 1874, by Mr. Sturtevant, *this* pair of mine have never been equalled, in good points, in the world, for a first-class Light Brahma cock and hen. At least, this is my opinion.

They are too old now to be of much farther use as breeders. But the hen laid over forty eggs last year, (1878.) They did not hatch well, however. And this year I have seen no indications yet that she will renew this duty. The cock is a splendid bird, but his vigor is declining, though he remains, at this writing, in high health.

The hen has weighed  $12\frac{1}{2}$  pounds. She is now thin in flesh, comparatively, and came through her last fall moult very slowly. But when in good feather, she is a magnificent bird; and in the past four years she has done her share towards increasing the product and enhancing the quality of the "improved" Light Brahma stock of the United States.

If I could have a choice in color, size, form and features for a flock of breeding Light Brahma *hens*, I would select this bird as my model, for many good reasons.

She has the very best head, and comb together, that I ever met with, and the most perfect. Her neck-hackles are clearly pencilled black, and at the base they are cut off in a clean circle, upon the shoulders. There the black feathering terminates, and no discolored "apron" is shown upon her back.

Her under-fluff is snow-white, to the skin, upon body and flanks. Both wing-tips are clearly black, in the flights. Her tail is short, full fan-shaped, and black as a coal. Her shanks are heavily feathered, without a vestige of "vulture-hock," and this runs evenly down to the extremities of both outer and middle toes.

Her symmetry is almost unexceptionable. There is the full broad breast, the handsome fluffy thighs, the long straight back, the over-arched eyes, the short firm beak, and the square upright carriage, always coveted in the perfect Light Brahma, but yet seldom attained !

In early life, she was a great layer, and upon two occasions proved an excellent mother. And now — at near five years

of age — she is as bright, as clean, as smart, and as beautiful, as when she was engaged in laying her first litter of eggs, at seven to eight months old ; and is the same fair, hearty, healthy, elegant bird she has ever been — a splendid type of the genuine Light Brahma — aye, every inch of her.

The cock portrayed in the Chromo referred to, is a very superior fowl. But his hackle-feathers are comparatively much lighter, and less distinct, in the black striping, than are the hen's. Otherwise, his color is good.

His wing-tips are “black, or nearly so.” His tail is a clear metallic black, from the roots to the extremities. The tail-coverts run up high over the rump, and are whitish, more or less. His shanks are well feathered, but his legs are not so long as those of many cocks I have bred, of equal weight. He will draw  $13\frac{1}{2}$  to 14 pounds, when at his best weight, and he carries a low nicely shaped pea-comb upon his smallish well turned head. His body under-color is clear white, again ; and he has sired a great many birds of both sexes that have followed the parentage in this particular, very accurately, though not universally.

#### THE TRUE POINTS OF THE BRAHMA FOWL

may be summed up as follows. The American Standard of Excellence furnishes a schedule of these requisite characteristics, more in detail : but the color, proportions, and general style of these birds, are enumerated thus — to suit my taste.

The cock, for breeding purposes, should weigh twelve to thirteen pounds. His body color, if clear white both on surface and in under-color, is best for breeding to the average dark-hackled hens ; and there will come from such a sire (among the male chicks), a larger proportion of even-colored birds.

His wing-tips or flight-feathers should be black, or clear black with narrow white-fringe. His tail should be clean metallic black. Back and tail coverts white — the white feathers running well up over the tail, from the saddle. Breast full, and well rounded. Back straight, and wide between the shoulders. Wing-bows white feathered, and flanks very clear white.

The comb should be low, firm in texture, upright, and perfectly formed, for the "pea-comb"—with three distinct serrations; the centre portion being the most prominent. Wattles small and well rounded, from base to under lines. A short stout beak, with horn-colored upper mandible, mainly. Legs not too long, but stout and straight from the hock, downward. Shanks well feathered to outer toe—and upon middle toe also, preferred.

The wings should be well "tucked up" under the saddle; and drooping or twisted wings should never be tolerated, any more than we should contenance the wry tail, on a breeder. Neck hackles must be clearly defined in the striping, or pencilling, but not too dark. The lighter the better—so that the hackles are clearly marked—upon the cock.

The hen should be a white bodied bird of 11 to 12 pounds weight—as distinctly clear and pure in plumage as is the White Cochin—except in three places on the body, to wit: on neck-hackles, tail, and wing-tips.

The "pencilling" upon the neck must be distinct, and decided, each hackle-feather being clearly marked with the black stripe. The head smallish, comb perfect "pea," and bill smaller, but similarly colored to that of the cock.

She should have an ample soft rising cushion, and her flanks—snow-white, throughout—should be full and fluffy. The tail coal-black, and wing-tips "black or nearly so." The latter should always be well tucked up, out of sight beneath the cushion, and her carriage should be stately and upright, from chickenhood to old age. She should also be full breasted, square bodied, though rangy, as well, in form, and comparatively short legged, with shanks heavily feathered to the toes.

Neither fowl should show the slightest indication of the "vulture hock" upon their limbs. This is not only extremely unsightly, but it is an absolute blemish, and a disqualification in the show room—as it ought to be.

The above mentioned characteristics are what we prefer for our *breeding* Light Brahmans. And when we use a dark hackled

and dark under colored cock, of course we mate and breed him to the *light*-colored neck-hackled hens — to obtain the most satisfactory average results.

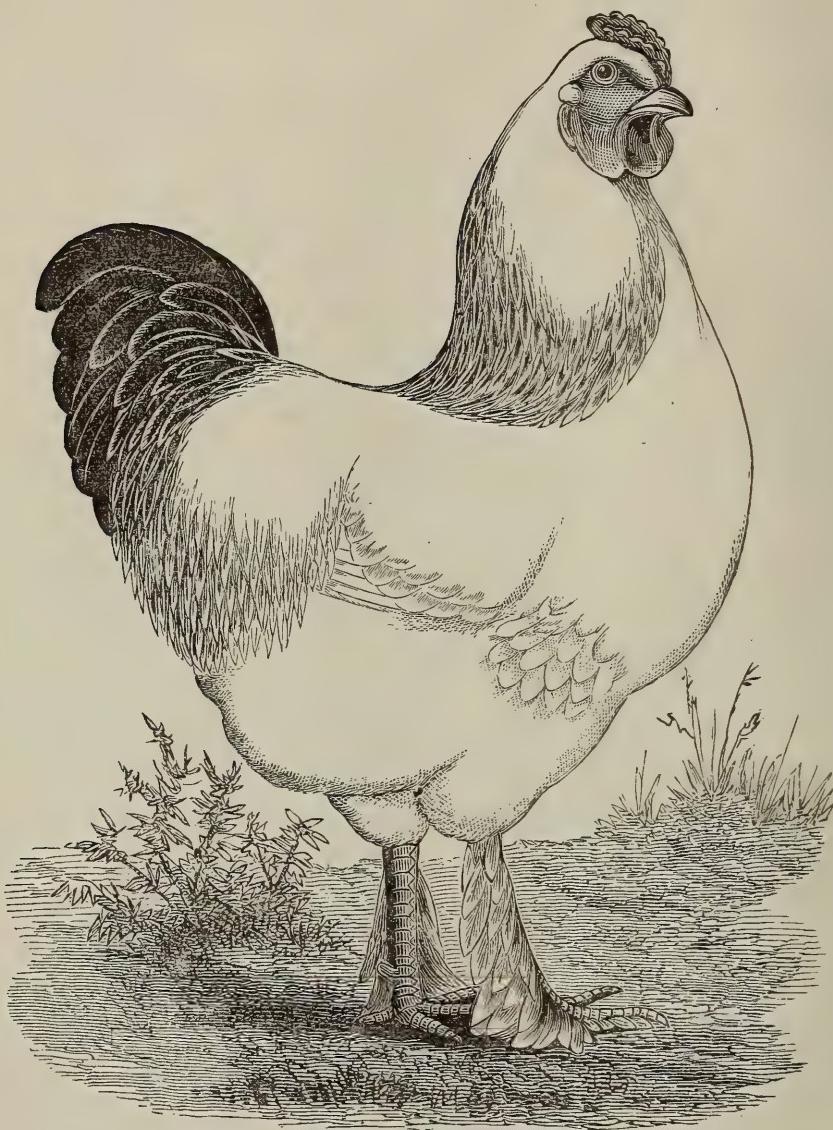
It has recently been well said that “few, excepting the more successful breeders, realize how important a part the proper *mating* of their breeding-stock plays in the rearing of exhibition birds. Premium or first-class fowls chosen for breeders simply because they are such, and regardless of their adaptation to each other, will but in a very limited measure guarantee progeny of a higher order than the average. Let a tyro in the business have his pick out of the premium pens in a show, to use for breeding in competition with a party well versed in the art, who has quite ordinary birds only at his command, (but all of them free from any glaring faults, and who has, moreover, a large number to select from, so that he may *mate* them judiciously,) and the chances are ten to one that the superior skill of the latter will carry the day.”

And this holds true, also, in regard to the method of breeding, generally. Unless the two sexes are so mated as that the prevailing color of one is properly balanced by its opposite color in the other sex, it is impossible to attain anything like uniformity among the chickens coming from such a union.

The sooner this naturally determined fact is appreciated, fully, the better will be our birds and the higher will be the satisfaction reached, among either young or older Light Brahma cultivators, I am well convinced.

Notwithstanding these now well-known facts, established through actual experience by all the best Light Brahma breeders in America, it is next to impossible to satisfy the novice or uninformed beginner, that he *must* conform to this method of careful mating, and “accept the inevitable” in attempting to grow good colored birds, or accomplish little or nothing in his breeding of these fowls, that will prove either creditable or satisfactory to him.

We can only repeat, then, that the wiser plan for amateurs to follow, when they desire to commence to the best advantage



LIGHT BRAHMA COCK. BRED FROM COMEY'S STOCK.

This is a very superior bird, and at two years old he reached nearly fifteen pounds weight. His color is especially fine; and though light in the hackle, he has proved an excellent stock-getter. Some of the finest and best marked pullets I have raised in 1878 and '79 are from this sire.

in breeding the Light Brahmans, is to obtain from some reliable fancier the first stock he buys, and make it a point with such a man to *properly mate the birds he sends the novice*, when he ships them. In this way a vast deal of disappointment will be avoided to the purchaser, who as a rule will save at least one year's time in his early experiments with this favorite breed.

It certainly is not impossible that some inferior colored chicks may come from even this careful and practically judicious course. Yet from our own personal knowledge, and our familiar acquaintance with the results that have almost uniformly followed such intelligent and appropriate matings, when made by the raisers of certain strains of improved Light Brahmans, we are confident that this mode is the *best* that can be adopted, for the benefit of both seller and purchaser.

The cock shown on page 22 is a descendant of one of the most remarkable fowls America has ever seen, a good portrait of which is here presented — and whose sire was known some years ago, as

#### COMEY'S "DUKE OF YORK."

Notwithstanding the known facts I have already given in these pages, regarding the dark under-color and the darkish body-plumage which characterised the old "Autocrat" bird, and which peculiarity in feathering — in all the crossings of this blood, showed almost uniformly, as Mr. Felch asserts — it is also a fact that the "Duke of York" was a grandson of old "Autocrat;" bred by Mr. Estes, with some of the latter's hens, as we all know, now.

These hens were in the possession originally of Mr. Phillips, who sold them to Mr. Estes, of New York, and they "were in foundation-blood," writes Mr. Felch, "the same as the stock sent to the Queen of England (in 1852) by Mr. G. P. Burnham."

Now the "Duke of York" was very *unlike* his reputed grand-sire, old "Autocrat," in body plumage color. And *his* descendants — wherever I have seen them — have uniformly been of a much clearer and whiter hue, both in exterior feathering and in underfluff.

Another noticeable difference between these two famous cock birds is seen in their shape and size. The "Duke of York" was immeasurably finer in form and purity of color, as compared with old "Autocrat;" while in proportions, (although a large bird) he was not so heavily framed as was his progenitor.

Either of these crowers however was big enough for any useful purpose, as breeders. And amongst the descendants of both, some enormous birds have been produced, at one time or another, by Mr. Comey, Mr. Williams, and other fanciers.

To our taste the body-color of the "Duke of York" was much the best; and I have seen hundreds of cockerels and pullets, bred clearly from this blood — in succession of generations — that were vastly superior as a rule to those produced from the "Autocrat" line, in every point excepting *size*, alone.

With this extra size, as I have hinted, come the deformities and the blemishes that all good Light Brahma breeders dread. And this is inevitable — anywhere, in any man's hands, I care not whose, to a greater or less extent, as I am able very clearly to demonstrate.

Amongst these faults is the unsightly dark *under-color* upon cocks and hens, which for some years has been the occasion of disqualifying show-birds, in many an American Exhibition room ; when, but for *this* defect, they must have been winners of the leading premiums.

In addition to this drawback, as soon as the poult er attempts to breed these monstrous cocks and hens together, with a view to attaining size only, out crop the miserable, shaky, indefinite combs ; the knock-kneed shanks appear ; the tall gawky ponderous frame is secured ; but the tail is a-wry, or the wing-flights are so twisted as to destroy the bird's chance for recognition, by any judge in the country !

And *these* manifest errors in cultivation are what we have to warn the Light Brahma breeder against being drawn into perpetuating, through a sole desire to get birds of the "largest dimensions," without regard to the finer points which he should aim to attain.

## STANDARD POINTS FOR LIGHT BRAHMAS.

The "American Standard of Excellence," a work put forth under the auspices and authority of the parent Poultry Association in this country, is made up of tabulated schedules referring to all the breeds of improved fowls recognised as such in the United States ; and giving to the Judges at public fowl exhibitions a criterion with which they may be enabled to pass upon the merits of the birds shown, from time to time.

The color of plumage which both sexes of all these varieties of fowls should carry, to be "duly qualified" for competition at these shows, is therein set down, and the general characteristics they should possess, are also in that book plainly specified : such as shape of combs, color of ear lobes, markings of plumage, weights for age, etc.

And among the list, we find one elaborate chapter detailing what the Brahma fowl should be, as to feather, form, carriage, symmetry, &c., to come within the rules of acceptance, when placed on exhibition.

We have our own notions about all this detail ; but the above mentioned is the only "standard" that breeders can be governed by, who wish to become exhibitors at American Society shows ; and therefore we must conform to such authority.

The standard provides that the Light Brahma cock must weigh twelve pounds, the hen ten pounds ; the cockerel ten pounds, and the pullet eight pounds, to come up to "standard weight." *Over* these weights, a point in the score is added for each pound ; *under* these weights, two points are deducted for every pound deficit.

If a cock weighs less than nine pounds, a hen less than seven and a half pounds, a cockerel less than seven and a half pounds, or a pullet less than six pounds, each or either are "disqualified," and cannot compete for the prizes, being under weight.

The color of the feathering of cocks and hens must be white, with distinct black stripings, or pencilling, upon hackles, black wing-tips, and tails. No brown or yellow feathers are anywhere allowed, upon the Brahmans.

The head should be broad ; beak yellow, with a horn-colored stripe in the centre ; comb a low triple, or "pea-comb;" neck of good length, with clearly defined hackles ; body full and well rounded ; legs yellow, and heavily feathered ; carriage upright and prompt ; fluff full and abundant, in soft feathering ; tail black, and well spread out ; short sickle plumes, etc., and the under-color of a white or blueish white, without black running plainly into the web, &c., &c.

For a twisted tail, or outer wing-plumes, for vulture hock, for not matching in age (when shown) in the coops, for having single combs, for crooked backs, or unfeathered legs, any Light Brahma bird, young or old, is at once disqualified, by Judges.

Now, if the breeder of this fine variety, which takes rank first in the Standard list above mentioned, is desirous of producing fowls that he can go into the Shows with, and there hope to gain a great or lesser prize for his birds, amidst the competition he is bound to encounter, every season, he must commence upon sound principles of careful breeding ; and has something to do—first and last—to enable him to be a winner, at the present day.

As he will have discovered already, he must produce fowls possessing clear merit. They must be of good size, and fair in proportions. The body-color must be pure white, and the pencilling or marking clear black. They must have well-formed pea-combs, not too large, or falling over to one side, from weakness at the base.

They should be full breasted, round bodied, wide backed, not too long legged, firm on their feet, straight limbed, well feathered upon shanks and toes, black tailed, black wing-tips, with full fledged flanks and cushion, bright yellow legs, clear white *under* color, (preferable,) and be in the best possible condition as to health and cleanliness, when placed on public exhibition.

To effect this result, I claim that we must give due heed to the original mating ; and never leave this important and vital point to take care of itself, in a single instance.

And these requirements, though numerous in detail, are not difficult to respond to, if we begin aright, and continue to manage judiciously and systematically, in

#### THE ACCEPTED METHOD OF BREEDING.

This mode, as adopted by breeders of practical experience, is in no essential particular different, as a rule. To reach the same final results, and to arrive at precisely what every man most ardently desires, the same general means must be availed of by all, to produce prime Standard Light Brahma fowls.

Some of us may — and have — experimented longer, or more largely, in this work than have others. Some have tried more plans for arriving at the wished for object, than have others.

But all have been, and are now, compelled to follow the teaching of certain fixed natural laws and principles, that none of us can dodge, avoid, evade, or get over, to be successful in breeding these fowls, at their best.

I have in mind as I write these lines such breeders as Messrs. Felch, Williams, Comey, Thompson, Buzzell, Ball, Todd, Bucknam, Josselyn — and a score of others I could mention — who have in the past fifteen years or more given a good share of studious attention to this specialty of breeding Light Brahmans, both systematically and sensibly, as well as artistically and successfully.

To each or any one of these well known and reputable fanciers of my life-long favorites, I confidently appeal in support of my theory as to the means for adoption to obtain such Light Brahmans as *they* have bred, and such as *I* have succeeding in producing, from year to year, down to the present time.

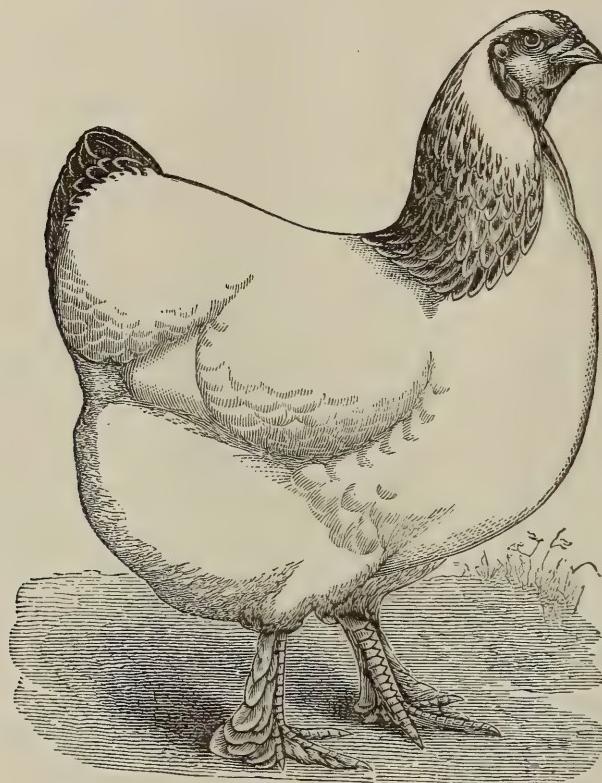
This method is in no wise complicated, or difficult of comprehension. But its rules are nevertheless exacting ; and these must be followed out implicitly, or failure will result.

This, *imprimis*.

I take no interest in the various theories that one or another tyro broaches, upon this subject, every now and then, through the public journals, because I *know* what I know about breeding Light Brahmans.

I have been studying, and experimenting, and reading, and practicing in this particular branch of improved fowl culture, for thirty long years. If I have not made myself conversant with most of the ins and outs of this business, I seriously doubt if I shall ever become an expert in the work.

And here is what *I* advise.



LIGHT BRAHMA PULLET, BRED BY G. P. BURNHAM, 1878.

At the outset, invest no good money in inferior or doubtful stock. Buy no man's Light Brahma eggs for hatching, or his fowls for breeding purposes, which you are not beforehand satisfied are purely and properly bred. When there are so many good breeders of these birds who have for years made this variety almost exclusively their study, and who know so nearly what certain hues of plumage in the two sexes, when united, will reproduce—the novice has ample room for choice as to whom he will purchase of.

There are some men who sell these popular birds for the

ready money they will command, who know their stock are mongrels ; but who have no concern on that score, if they can get rid of them at paying prices. There are many men who deal in similar valueless stock, *mis-called* "Light Brahma's," who do *not* know that they have been gulled, themselves, and are deceiving others in their transactions. And there are too many who neither know or care what you get from them, so that you pay for what you order.

Men are but human, and many poultry-dealing persons are especially so—in these latter days !

On the other hand, there are so great a proportion of the fowl fanciers in this country who are reliable, and honestly disposed, who will supply you with what you purchase of them justly and honorably, that you have but to exercise the same degree of caution in this trade that you would naturally use in any regular business matter, to secure fair treatment and satisfaction at their hands.

Ascertain first, then, who you are about to deal with, and what is the real character of his stock. Satisfied that he is a square man, and a good breeder of Light Brahma stock, then order your eggs or chickens of him, pay him a fair price for them, and proceed ; content that you will get what you bargained for — no more, no less.

If such a breeder ships you fowls or chickens, ask him to mate the trio properly, so that you may look for the best average results when you come to set the eggs the hens or pullets may lay upon your premises.

This simple thing every fowl breeder ought to do, in his customer's interests, without solicitation. And many prominent dealers advertise to do this, in advance—a practice I have myself followed, for years.

When you possess yourself of such birds as I have described, from such a man as I have now referred to, breed them as he has instructed or may advise you to do. And do not attempt any experiments with them, until you have proved their value and genuineness, or the contrary.

You will find upon their receipt, if they are well matured birds, that the cockerel and pullets (or the cock and hens, as the case may be), are *not* marked precisely alike, in the pencilling of their necks. One is considerably lighter or darker than the others. This is as it should be.

You purchased this trio — a male and two females — to *breed* Light Brahma chickens from; *not* for exhibition purposes, remember. Out of these birds, if you begin with them in the spring of the year, possibly you may obtain a trio or two of chicks that at the succeeding annual show in your neighborhood will astonish your friends, and prove winners. But *these* are breeding-stock, and not Show Fowls.

You wanted both?

Well! This you cannot have, my good friend, in the same pair or trio, as I have already informed you, in previous pages. You did not so order them, and you must not expect this.

The breeder who forwards your young stock, (if you trade with an honest man), will frankly tell you that the "well matched" cocks and hens to be seen in the show-pens, at public exhibitions, are not what you want for *breeding*-birds.

So, if you are anxious to own the former, before you have time to grow them from the trio you may have purchased for breeders, you must order a second pair, or trio, for the *Show*s. When these reach you, you will see at a glance that they are another style of birds, and the *price* (it may be) according to their superiority, will be decidedly a different matter.

#### EXPLANATION OF WHAT IS "A FOWL'S RECORD."

The editor of the "American Poultry Yard" gives us the following clear explanation of the term frequently inquired about and referred to as "a fowl's public record."

"The 'record' of a cock or hen is the official announcement of its recorded *scoring* at a public exhibition. It is analogous to the official record of a race-horse, or a trotter. We see a horse announced as trotting 'for a purse,' or 'against time,' and he wins in 2:20. This establishes his record. If he subsequently makes better time, say 2:18, on a future

occasion, then his ‘record’ would be 2:18, for a mile and so on.

“ In the application of this term to prize-winning fowls, the word ‘record’ refers exclusively to the *score*, or number of points recorded at a public show in their favor. For example, a cock is scored by a Judge as marking 96 points ; or a hen 95 points. This constitutes their official ‘record.’ These same birds may subsequently, at another show, be scored by other judges (under less favorable circumstances perhaps), at 90 or 92 points, only. This does not affect their original better record — any more than would the time-record of the horse be affected, should he *lose* a race (or trot his mile *after* he had first performed it in 2:18), in 2:26. By the same rule, if a fowl at first marking a score of 95, shall at a subsequent show be fairly scored 98 points, then this *higher* score becomes his best ‘record.’ ”

“ If a cock or hen with this scoring, wins a ‘special’ money prize or other special premium, in addition to winning regular prizes, on account of his best scoring — it has nothing to do with his ‘record.’ This is a matter of *points*, only. And a bird may win or lose subsequently to the official declaration accorded him as to the highest number of points he scores. This alone constitutes the public ‘record.’ If he afterwards chances to win elsewhere a \$50 cash ‘special’ premium, this may gratify his owner, or add to his reputation, perhaps. But this winning does not refer to his actual ‘record’ at all ; since (even though he may win such ‘special’ in another show) it often occurs that at such latter exhibition his scoring is three, four, or five points below his original score — in the opinion of another judge, and for good reasons.

“ He may not be in such fine condition as he was when he gained his original ‘record.’ He may not be so heavy by a pound or two. He may have lost a sickle feather. He may have been unfortunate in having his comb frost-bitten, and so disfigured, in the interim between two shows. He may show traces of rousy affection, from having, since he was first scored,

taken cold. All these mishaps combined, or any of them, will inevitably impair his beauty, and serve rightfully to reduce his chances for the original high score he obtained.

"But all this does not change his first decided excellence—and his best score (whatever this may be) in number of points, publicly declared by an official judge, is *all* that the term record implies. This record may be registered in the *American Poultry Pedigree Book*, for subsequent reference, if desired; but no future good or ill fortune, as to what prizes a bird may win, has anything to do with this 'record' when once established."

Having giving you some hints, thus far, as to how you should proceed with your young breeders, I will now tell you something that may interest you, perhaps more especially,

#### ABOUT GROWING PRIZE BRAHMAS.

Mr. H. H. Stoddard, editor of the "Poultry World," has recently put forth an excellent little volume, giving concise and valuable directions as to the production and rearing of Prize-winning Fowls, generally.

My present suggestions refer only to the treatment of my own specialty, the *Light Brahma*; of which, every year, I breed many trios that I sell, by themselves, explicitly as *exhibition birds*.

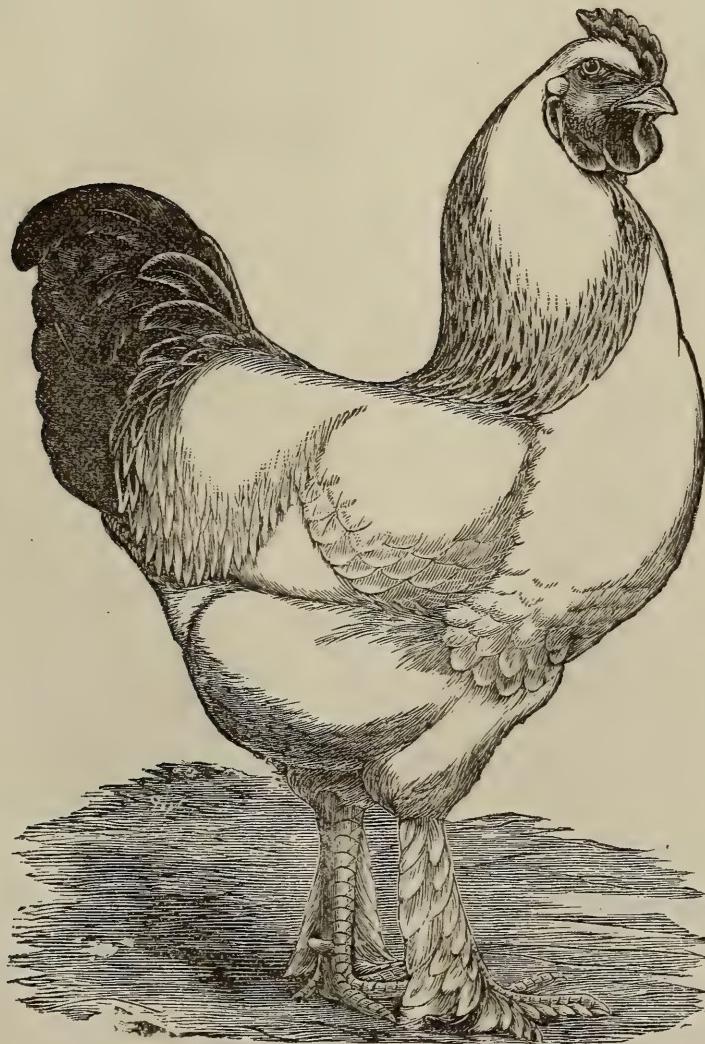
In the Show season, every one who is so fortunate as to possess a few extra samples of these popular birds, is ambitious to get his pets before the public eye; for every fancier is prone to think that *his* birds are a little finer than are those of his enterprising neighbors, and that they are destined to be winners at the exhibitions, certain.

This is a laudable kind of self-assurance, and serves to encourage not only the expectant premium-gainer, but it prompts his competitors to put forth their best efforts to excel him. And so the general good quality of these choice fowls is constantly being enhanced, and their fine points continually improved upon, as we progress in our work, from year to year.

Some of the very finest Light Brahmans I ever raised myself, and many of the choicest birds at a year old, or thereabout,

that I ever saw on exhibition in our American Show-rooms, were fall and winter chickens, that had been hatched early in the spring, say in February or March, previously.

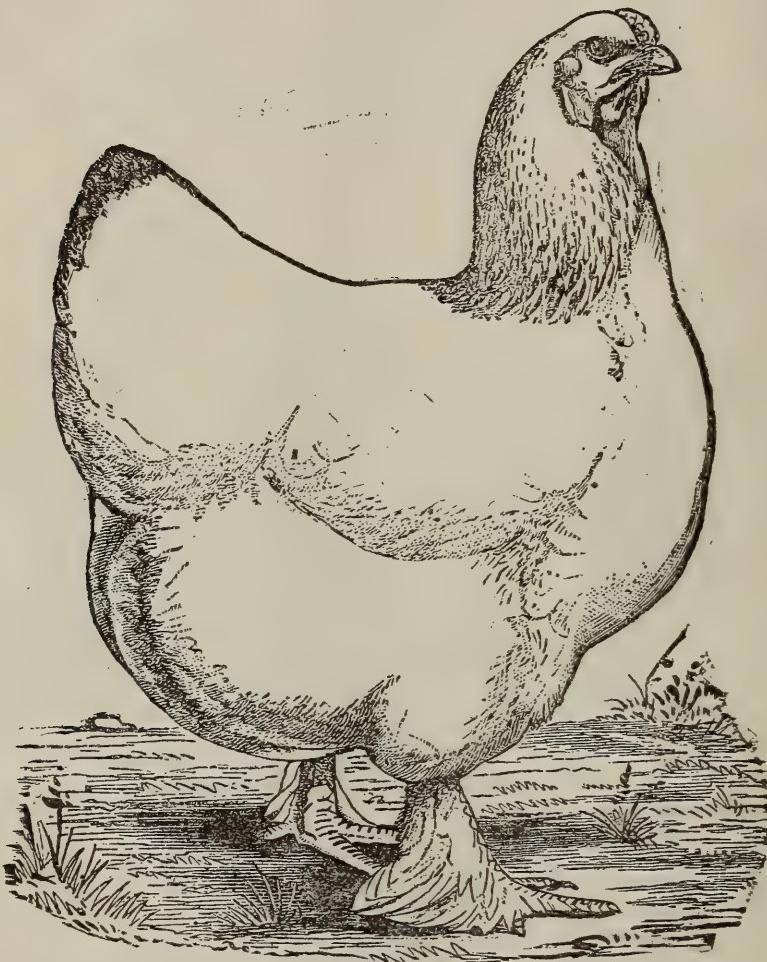
A cockerel and pullet of the Felch strain of Light Brahma, as above described, I give drawings of on this and next pages. These engravings represent birds about a year old, fully grown.



LIGHT BRAHMA COCK, (FELCH STRAIN.)

They will be recognized by those acquainted with Mr. Felch's stock, as very good likenesses of a pair of his well bred young

fowls, of a strain that he prides himself upon having established, after several years of careful and intelligent mating and selection among his best breeders.



LIGHT BRAHMA HEN, TWO YEARS OLD.

Birds of this grade and quality for breeding-stock are amongst the most valuable we have, in Mr. F's. opinion, inasmuch as he breeds closely to pedigrees, from the different families of Brahmans that he selects from time to time.

These excellences he has blended together through a long series of experiments carefully manipulated, until he has reduced the details of his system to a very fine thing in producing annually his well formed, good colored, and beautifully shaped Light

Brahmas, that so frequently carry off the palm in the show rooms, amongst very sharp competition.

To grow such Light Brahmases as these, that delineated on page 28, or those portrayed in our frontispiece, and follow it up, requires some experience, and more than a year or two of trial in the business, it may well be believed.

But the older fanciers, who have so long devoted their best skill and attention to cultivating this particular class, have done so much towards perfecting their several "strains" of Light Brahma stock, that *they* can now accomplish this with comparative ease. And when the new beginners wisely purchase the stock they want of *these* men, more than "half the battle" is gained at the outset, by the novice; who thenceforward will find his anxiety and doubts about the purity of the blood he starts out with, much lessened, while he will lose no time experimenting, the first season.

And this is a grand advantage. More than half the spring and fall purchases of Light Brahma stock that are made all over this country, are made by novices and by amateurs who know little or nothing about these fowls themselves, and who buy them at hap-hazard, of men who know perhaps quite as little of the real merits (or faults) of the stock they sell, as do their customers.

Then they breed them, or grow them from young chicks; and upon maturing, they make the discovery that "the Light Brahmases, after all, are not so desirable a variety" as from their reputation they had supposed them to be. The whole year is thrown away, and they must begin again, since they have not been cultivating Light Brahmases at all, but have simply wasted their money and their time, unluckily, on mere half-breeds, or mongrel birds!

Mr. Felch's theory (and practice) is good. He contends that the sire should be of the highest individual quality, and he should have a pedigree, or record, showing his breeding qualities to be the result of ancestral blood; claiming, as other prime stock breeders do, that if we choose the highest type to

perform the paternal act, we can in succession repeat the desired typical creation. And if we can "find two parents that possess or represent the original idea, in any organism, we can repeat the original idea."

No doubt this is fundamental in principle, for all experience teaches us that it is only from the best originals that we can breed the best progeny. Starting out with this sensible basis, the amateur may achieve success at an early day, in greater or less degree. And by cultivating such stock, *at the beginning* of his operations, can he alone hope to produce such birds as will compete with those grown by older breeders.

For this reason, we urge it upon all who contemplate commencing their poultry-raising career with a view to enter the arena of competition with probable prize-winning Light Brahmans, that they begin at the right time, with the right strains, and follow out the right method, to accomplish this desirable object.

We do not intend, now, to convey the impression that Mr. Burnham, Mr. Felch, Mr. Williams, Mr. Comey, Mr. Buzzell, or Mr. Anybody, *especially*, is the man to whom the novice should give a preference, when he desires to purchase prime Light Brahma stock.

These are representative men. All of them breed good fowls, exhibit fine samples annually, win prizes constantly, and give their patrons respectively average satisfaction in their dealings with them. But we have mentioned these and other gentlemen in these pages, because we know them personally, and because we know just what their Light Brahma stock is, to-day. Any of it is good enough.

Look through the advertising columns of your poultry journals, monthly or weekly, for the address of the proficient breeders of this coveted variety. You will find in the "Poultry World," the "American Poultry Yard," or elsewhere, a grand array of names of men who cultivate this choice stock, to great perfection. Prominent among these, are the breeders to whom I have referred.

Procure from your chosen source such eggs for hatching, or cocks and hens for breeding, as you may desire, and make it a point to have the chickens or fowls **PROPERLY MATED** *by the seller* before they leave his yards.

He knows better than you do, what you want. If you intend to grow your own birds from these, the seller will send you properly "mated stock," that will turn you out the better average chicks. If you seek birds "matched for exhibition," he will understand your wish, and conform to it, very cheerfully, if you are content to pay him his price for such choice.

But in making this latter named purchase, it is of consequence that you learn, through correspondence, just what he can furnish you, before you close your trade. Then there is little room afterwards for fault-finding, or discussion, with any honorable fancier. In either case

#### GET THE EARLIEST HATCHED CHICKENS

you can procure of these men. And if you undertake to hatch them, yourself, get out the young ones in February or March, if convenient, when they are intended for exhibition uses.

Such chicks — if you can manage to carry them through the cold weeks of April and May, safely — will, in very large proportion, turn out the heaviest birds in the succeeding fall ; and they will grow much more rapidly after cold weather sets in, in November and December, on account of the better start they get during the long summer months.

They should be hatched under hen-mothers, (not in an incubating machine,) for *this* purpose ; and if possible, in a glass-roofed house. At any rate, at this early time of the year, it is next to useless to attempt to do any thing with them, unless they can be accommodated with warm, dry, well sheltered quarters. And, from the shell, whenever the sun shines, they should have the full benefit of its warming rays.

The coop in which they must, at first, for several weeks be confined, should be kept scrupulously clean. Both the hen and her brood must be carefully preserved from attacks of lice. Their food should be of the best,—and varied, too, from the

time they are two or three weeks old, until they can run upon the new grass, in May and June.

Their soft bran and meal feed should invariably be thoroughly scalded, and if milk can be substituted for water, both as a drink and for mixing their cooked mash with, the advantage is very palpable. Nothing suits the young birds so admirably as will *this* provision.

Through the months of March and April — or, say for three months after the chicks are hatched — they will for most of the time, (in our northern climate), be limited to the coop or small chicken-house, where they first “see the light.”

While thus confined, they must have extra care, or they will fail, and die off. They are very delicate, and the early frigid weather is against them, decidedly. The hen-mother will do her part towards keeping them comfortable; but they must not be exposed to the cold air, much, until they begin to get the feathers upon their tender bodies.

As soon as the May grass starts, they may enjoy the out-of-doors run. Give them range, fresh air, good cooked and dry food, plenty of milk, still—if you have it—and an occasionally feed of bone and finely chopped meat: and watch them as they grow, from this time, forward.

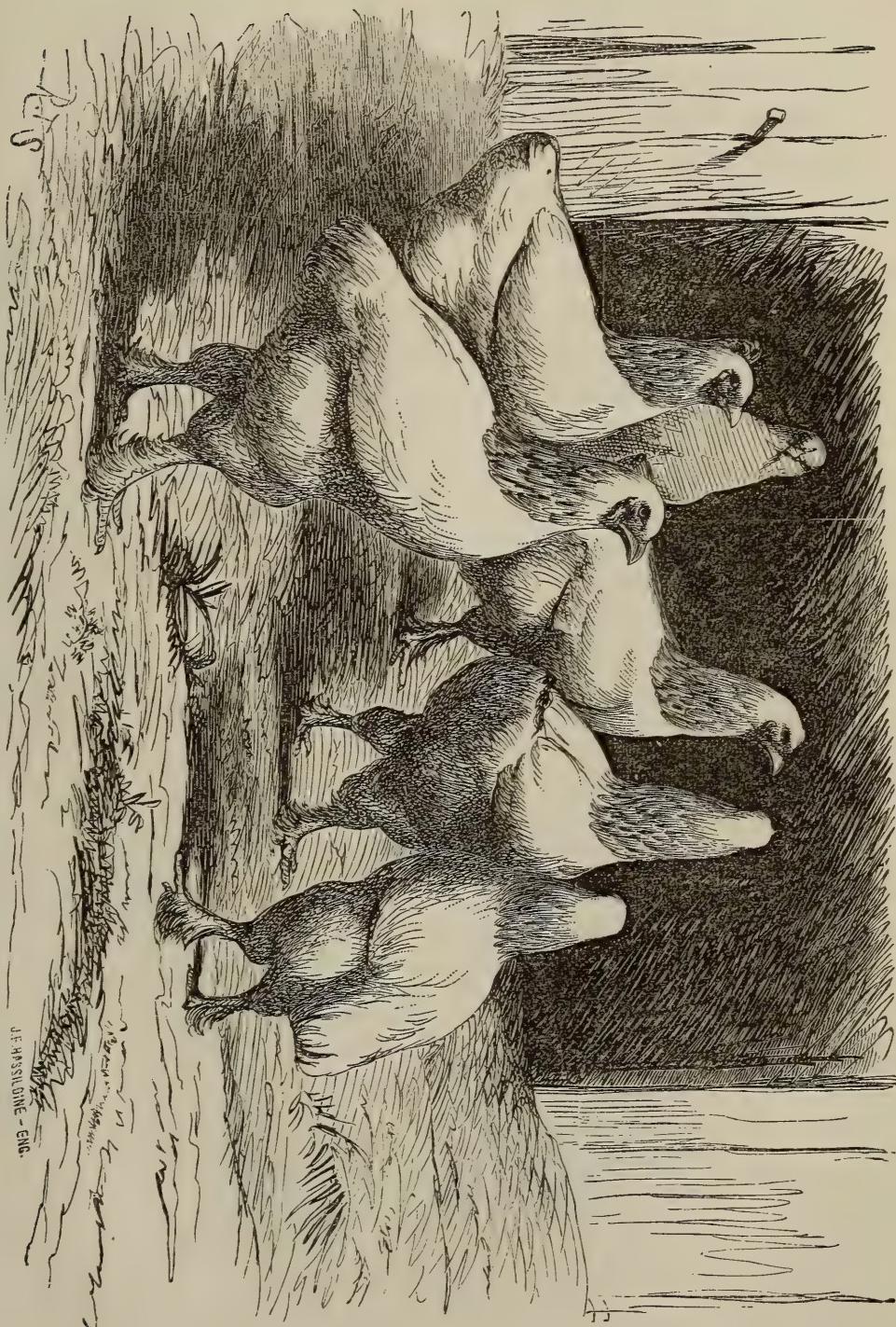
We have had four to five months old Light Brahma cock-chicks, thus treated, that would draw six and seven pounds, each—by the dozen—in a good season. At eight months of age, these same cockerels would weigh nine to ten pounds. And at eleven to twelve months old, we have seen them that drew thirteen to almost fourteen pounds, apiece.

Well fed — these fellows !

Of course they were well fed; and well provided for, also.

And if the amateur supposes for a moment that he can produce such birds *without* this nice care and extra keeping, he may undeceive himself, at once, upon this point. It cannot be done, in any other way.

“But this entails a deal of trouble,” we hear another novice exclaim,



A BROOD OF FOUR-MONTHS OLD LIGHT BRAHMA CHICKS.

J.F. HASSLING - ENG.

Ah, well. So it does, young man! And if to obtain such samples of Light Brahmans as I have now briefly described are not worth this amount of trouble to you, save yourself the pains-taking it involves. *You can't grow good Brahma fowls, that is clear!*

#### HOW TO SELL GOOD FOWL STOCK.

It is one thing to *raise* good stock, and another thing to *dispose* of it to advantage, when one may have it to sell. We have now stated what is requisite, in a general way, for the successful *production* of Light Brahma Fowls, of the quality and merit that will be likely, when entered at the American Poultry Shows of to-day, to prove winners of the leading prizes, from time to time.

When the fortunate breeder of such superior stock has advanced so far as that it becomes desirable he should dispose of it, or a portion of it, there is one thing more which he will find it necessary to do, to complete his success in this business. And this is, to adopt the best means in advertising it that can be availed of, to inform the buying public that he possesses such fine birds, and has them for sale.

To render this important measure effective, and valuable to him, we advise him to invest his money in advertising his fowls "where it will do him the most good," if he attempts this at all. It costs something to do this properly, and in a poultry magazine that has a liberally extensive circulation.

To pay out good money for placing such advertisements in papers that are seen or read by but a few scattered scores or hundreds of indifferent people, monthly, is sheer folly, and the very poorest kind of economy. And many a young beginner who has tried the plan of advertising in these cheap periodicals, has thus spent his money for naught.

Go to the right source, then, when you wish to make your stock known. The "*Poultry World*," monthly, and the "*American Poultry Yard*," weekly, published at Hartford, Conn., are now well known, this country over, to be the poultry papers that are really worth patronizing; for the reason that these two

publications have always been devoted exclusively to the one general subject of fowl-raising and its belongings, and they go everywhere and in immense numbers, regularly, wherever a poultryman dwells in the land — east, north, west, and south.

Advertising in *these* two poultry publications will pay you. I have tried them *all*, first and last. I have foolishly spent hundreds upon hundreds of dollars in other papers and poultry journals, in the last seven years; but I have actually received more cash orders for fowls and poultry-books from my advertisements in H. H. Stoddard's two papers, above mentioned — twenty times over — than I ever received from advertising in any other way, and fifty times more than I ever heard of from advertising in any other *poultry* publication in the United States.

I give this testimony voluntarily, because it is strictly true.



LIGHT BRAHMA PULLET, TWELVE MONTHS OLD.

I have realized this benefit myself, and I would have those *who wish to get their money's worth*, in this way, know where and how they may similarly be served and profited, when they have good fowls to sell, and want to know how they may best make this fact known to those most likely to be their purchasers—in any part of this country.

On page 41 is a good representation of a Light Brahma pullet, of the Felch stock, a companion to the cockerel portrayed on page 33.

Few strains of this race have been bred so nicely and uniformly, in considerable numbers, as has this "pedigree" blood in the hands of Mr. F. But it is not of the heavy weight class.

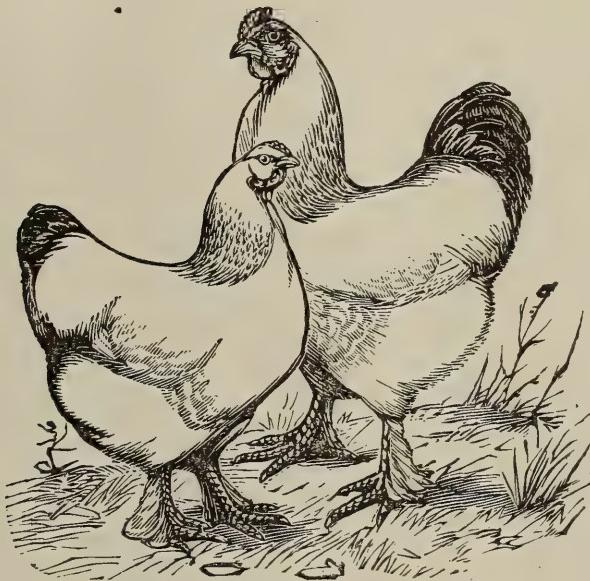
Mr. F. is a stickler for good points, pure color, finely formed pea-combs, symmetrical proportions, and general first-class characteristics in his stock. But he is content to breed twelve pound cocks and ten pound hens, for his maximum in mature fowls, rather than run the risk of distorting and deforming his own birds, by crossing in the mammoth blood of the larger-framed lines upon his well established, handsome, and popular Brahmases.

From among the product of some, or any, of these different strains which I have now mentioned—to wit, the Williams, the Burnham, the Comey, the Felch, the Todd, the Buzzell, and I may add the Dibble, and the Woodward, (of Conn.) strains—it will be safe and politic for any young fancier in the country to select his Light Brahma breeding stock, or order the higher class of specimens, recognized as Exhibition birds.

The buyer cannot go far astray in accepting this recommendation, because all these men have a reputation to maintain, and they know what good birds are, in this particular breed, however much or little they may know about the other improved varieties of American fowl stock.

They have been studiously engaged in this business for years, and they have shown ability and competency in their work, as well as honorable pride in doing their work well. Each has contributed, in his own peculiar sphere, to make the

Light Brahma what it is, to-day, and to place this admirable and beautiful domestic fowl where it now stands,—at the head of the list,—in all the attributes that go to make up the **BEST** of its species. And to attain such prominence, though its accomplishment has been measurably a pleasant task which has been fairly remunerated, it has been achieved through many trials, much labor, and oftentimes serious disappointment.



PAIR OF LIGHT BRAHMAS.

I do not intend by my suggestion, that very early hatched Brahma chickens only will invariably prove the finest in the succeeding fall or winter; because it frequently happens that birds got out in April, or even as late as in May, during a specially fine summer that may follow, will come up very rapidly; and, in November or December, equal the first hatched chickens in weight and size.

Still, as a rule, I have found from experience that if a few such chickens can be started in February, under favorable circumstances, and if they can be kept under a glazed roof, in dry quarters, and have extra attention during the severe weather of early spring-time, they will amply pay for the

trouble. And many that I have thus grown have proved winners at the succeeding exhibitions, at ten to twelve months of age. What the young chickens especially need at *any* season of the year, while passing through the period when they are so slightly sheltered with the first thin down that covers their tender bodies, is constant warmth, dry quarters, all the sunlight available within their coops, and dry, crumbly, cooked soft food, that is nutritious and easily digestible; and this should be fed to them four or five times daily.

The warmth should be that which the body of the hen-mother naturally affords in "brooding" her little ones. Artificial heat, like that from a stove placed within the hen-house, is absolutely worse than the cold atmosphere.

I have tried this experiment thoroughly and repeatedly, and I never yet found such heat either serviceable or healthful. Steam-heat, or pipe-heat, like that used to warm a green-house for instance, may answer. But this is too expensive, and very few poultry-raisers have this kind of convenience on their premises, any way.

#### THE POULTRY EXHIBITION ROOM

is the arena, finally; where most of these higher class fowls are destined to be seen, in competition, at some period of their lives. This is the purpose largely for which they are bred, whatever use they may be put to before or after such exhibitions — as breeders, or otherwise.

It is the ambition of the owners of such superior birds, however — whether he is the original breeder of them, or only their purchaser, a few days or weeks prior to the show season — to have his admired favorites take the front rank, if possible, when he thus places them beside the contributions of other fanciers, in competition for the prizes and the honors to be gained, upon these pleasant occasions of friendly rivalry.

It does not always happen that the real *producer* of the Light Brahma prize birds at our Exhibitions is the *winner* of the premiums. Indeed, this result is the exception, rather than the rule.

Mr. Felch is not himself a public exhibitor of his own stock.



DUPLICATE OF THE CAGE AND LIGHT BRAHMA FOWLS SENT TO QUEEN VICTORIA IN 1852, BY GEO. P. BURNHAM, OF MELROSE, MASS.,

*As exhibited by him at the State Shows in Connecticut, and Maine, in Jan. and Feb., 1878.*

Mr. Comey individually does not enter his birds, at the shows, at all. Mr. Burnham has been an exhibition competitor, personally, but three times in the past fifteen years.

Yet the Light Brahmans produced by these three leading breeders, have carried off the bulk of all the prizes that have been awarded at American Shows, for the last score of years.

The winning fowls have been furnished by these gentlemen, but the premiums have gone to subsequent owners, who have accepted the awards and honors, very frequently without any credit being accorded to the party who bred the birds.

And to all this the originators of this fine stock make no objection, since it has become customary for the *owner* of the birds to take the credit that attaches to these lucky contributions; for which, usually, he pays high prices. Mr. Williams is an extensive breeder, and a large exhibitor, also. But he supplies hundreds of winners to others who show them, and which gain prizes frequently among the best that are seen, in different parts of the country.

On page 45 we give an accurate drawing of the duplicate "QUEEN'S CAGE and Fowls," about which some curiosity has been evinced. The author of this book had the honor of presenting to her Majesty Queen Victoria (in 1852) such a cage of beautiful Light Brahmans as are there shown—and at Hartford and Portland, in 1878, this duplicate cage and contents were exhibited, to the admiration of thousands who thronged both those fine Shows, for several days in succession.

As this event was an exceptional affair in the history of American poultry exhibiting, and as it gave rise to some comment at the time, we transfer to these pages the editorial remarks that appeared in the Hartford "*Poultry World*" upon this subject, which will give the reader a good idea of that interesting incident.

This was a very meritorious exhibition—where the large number of really A 1 Light Brahma fowls gathered together surprised not only the public, but the well known breeders, themselves! And here is what Mr. H. H. Stoddard had to

say about it in his magazine, soon after the close of the exhibition at Hartford, Conn., under the title caption-line of

“UNPRECEDENTED SCORING.”

“At the late annual exhibition of the Connecticut State Poultry Society, held at Hartford, a chief feature of the show was afforded in the superior contributions of standard Light Brahma fowls and chickens, entered by Messrs. Philander Williams, of Taunton, Geo. P. Burnham, of Melrose, and J. E. Bullock, of Providence, who competed there for the \$100 gold prize, offered ‘for the finest and most attractive cage of any variety of Chinese Fowls, not less than eight *Standard* specimens.’

“The scoring of these magnificent and colossal specimens of Asiatics on this occasion, was beyond comparison the most remarkable that has ever come under our observation. And as every one who visited the Exhibition evinced so keen an interest in the scaling of the four judges who decided on the nicely balanced ‘points’ of these birds, we have accurately copied from the original cards in possession of the Secretary, the *details* of the ‘score,’ which we here ‘place upon record,’ for the information of all who desire to learn the important result.

“Mr. Williams won the \$100 prize by five and a quarter points only, in a scoring of seven hundred and thirty-seven points. All the birds scaled away up in the nineties, as is seen by the following official record of the judges. We append the result—which is the most remarkable instance of close scoring we ever knew; and which will stand *alone*, in our opinion, in its entirety, for all the future, where so large a number of choice, well-bred, mammoth Light Brahmams are considered, together. The aggregate ratings of each cage of eight Light Brahmams which were entered for this prize, (being the number of points reached out of a possible 800,) were Philander Williams, 736 $\frac{1}{4}$ ; Geo. P. Burnham, 731 3-16; James E. Bullock, 700 $\frac{3}{4}$ .

The winner of this prize by so small a number of points over the aggregate given by four judges to the next competitor, merely shows how nearly balanced was all this superb

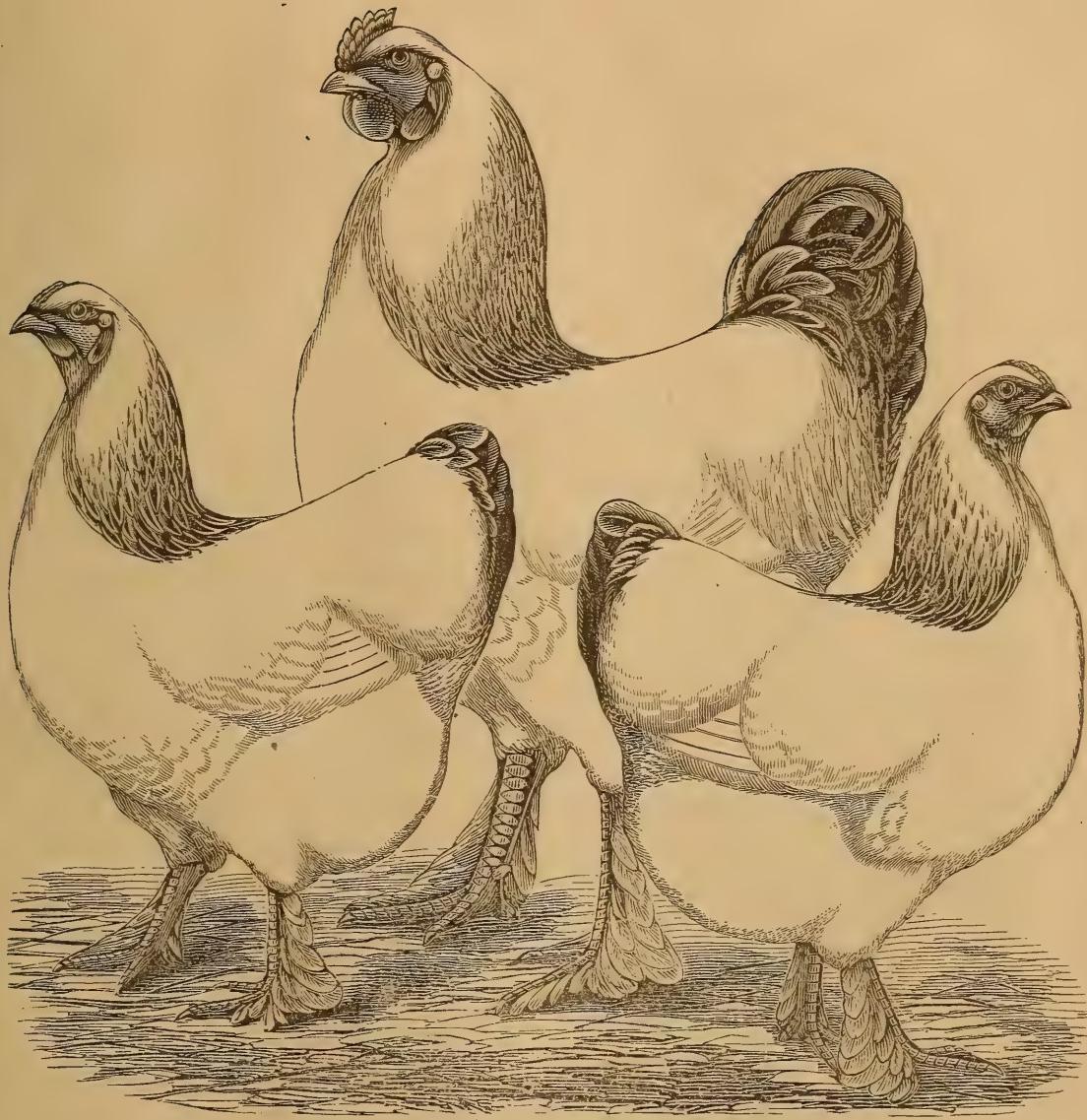
stock, and also the character of the Light Brahmans that are owned and bred by both Mr. Burnham and Mr. Williams. We but reiterate the universal opinion expressed by all who saw the unrivalled competitive display made between these two accomplished veterans, that the eight representative birds in the 'Queen's cage,' shown by Mr. Burnham, of Melrose, and the eight in Mr. Williams's cage, were, every one of them, nearly perfect; and all were surpassingly beautiful, as well as intrinsically first-class in points and quality. And here we give a *detailed* account from the official record of the separate scoring of all the judges, upon each individual bird, as returned by Messrs. Bradley, Woodward, Carpenter and Hudson; a grand result for the owners of the extraordinary birds shown at Hartford by these exhibitors.

#### OFFICIAL SCORING OF 24 LIGHT BRAHMAS, AT HARTFORD, JAN. 11, 1878.

<i>Philander Williams' score of Eight Birds.</i>				<i>Geo. P. Burnham's score of Eight Birds.</i>			
By G. W. Bradley.	By B. S. Woodward.	By E. Carpenter.	By P. W. Hudson.	By G. W. Bradley.	By B. S. Woodward.	By E. Carpenter.	By P. W. Hudson.
Cockerel, 87	85½	87½	87½	Pullet, 98¾	98¾	98¾	96¾
Pullet, 93¾	93½	93½	94¾	Pullet, 93¾	93½	92¾	90¾
Hen, 90¾	91½	91	91¾	Hen, 92	92½	90½	89½
Hen, 92	92½	91¾	89½	Pullet, 89½	89½	89½	88
Pullet, 91½	91½	91½	89½	Pullet, 88¾	89½	87¾	86½
Pullet, 95½	93½	95½	92	Hen, 88½	89½	90½	86½
Hen, 93¾	93½	94½	93½	Cock, 91½	91½	91½	92½
Pullet, 94½	95½	93½	93	Cock, 91	90	90	87½
<hr/>				<hr/>			
738½	737	738½	731½	736½	737¾	733½	717
Average of Mr. Williams' total score, 736¾.				Average of Mr. Burnham's total score, 731 3-16.			

"Mr. Bullock's total scoring by the four judges, gave him an average *total* of 700½ points, against Mr. Williams's total of 736½, and Mr. Burnham's total of 731 3-16. The above two tables of *details* we quote, only; Mr. Bullock's score being so much lower than those of the other two competitors, as to render the labor of tabulating unnecessary.

"These three scorings were added together, separately, for each man's birds, and the whole divided by *four*, to give each competitor the average result we have announced in the third paragraph of this article. The reader who will carefully examine the above figures, will not fail to observe one or two facts in the decision which was arrived at. Upon each and *every* one of Mr. Burnham's birds, three of the judges, includ-



A MATCHED TRIO OF  
**PRIIZE LIGHT BRAHMA FOWLS,**  
BRED BY GEO. P. BURNHAM, 1878, '79,  
MELROSE, MASS.

The above three birds are out of the *old* pair portrayed in the CHROMO frontispiece to this book. The cock was hatched February 10th, and the pullets March 5th, 1878. From these pullets, bred back to the old cock, I have over thirty chicks, hatched since February 20th, 1879.



ing the chairman, agreed in their markings to within a very few points throughout the *whole*, and the aggregates of these three judges were, also, very *nearly* alike ; while the fourth judge, on every one of Mr. B.'s fowls, marked them two to three points lower than did the others, giving him an aggregate of about twenty points less than did the other three.

"In the scaling of Mr. Williams's birds, the four judges more nearly agreed ; so that the reduced scoring of each of Mr. Burnham's fowls, by *one* of the judges, turned the scales in Mr. W.'s favor. It was a marvelously nice piece of work, all this, and reflects not a little credit upon the judges, in this instance, for their care in the estimates attained. And the fact that all these four experts should have arrived so nearly to almost an unanimous conclusion, in this interesting contest, (neither knowing until the final aggregate count was made, what any other judge had scored,) affords ample evidence that they understood their duty and performed it faithfully."

#### SCORING FOWLS FOR "POINTS,"

is a work performed by our duly "authorized judges" in the exhibition rooms ; and is a nice operation, when well done. But we have very few experts in this country who are strictly qualified for this duty, where the excellent qualities of high-class Light Brahmans are involved, in close competition.

Referring to the instance we have just quoted, so very neatly chronicled in the article we copy from the "Poultry World," it will be seen that the Light Brahmans scored upon that occasion were accorded very creditable figures in the scale, by four different judges, three of whom agreed (in the higher markings) almost to a fraction ; giving to one of the pullets, grown by myself,  $98\frac{3}{4}$  points.

When this same pullet was a second time scored, for the \$100 gold prize which, with her mate, she won at Portland, the two judges who passed upon her *there*, a month afterwards, gave her a score of only  $93\frac{1}{2}$  and  $95\frac{1}{4}$  points respectively. Thus showing that poultry judges, like doctors, are apt to disagree in their opinion.

Now this business of scoring or scaling birds is not understood, generally; and so I will briefly explain its details, as I find them set down recently in a poultry magazine.

The editor, in speaking of the "American Standard," says truly that there are thousands of poultrymen every year who have to learn for the first time that this book exists, or what is the nature of its contents—and adds that, "This book is gotten up with care, under the auspices of the American Poultry Association, especially for the purpose of affording the fraternity a guide, whereby they may understand what the "standard points" are, and what the novice must do to approach as nearly as possible to perfection in breeding.

The phrase "standard points," signifies the marks of quality determined by the *American Poultry Association* in its *Standard*, scoring from one to one hundred points — and relates to the features of fowls — such as symmetry, color, shape, size, form, plumage, comb, etc., to each of which portions of the bird's general make up a certain number of the "points" that go to form the aggregate 100 are apportioned, for the guidance of judges in making their awards.

For instance, the division of standard "points" set down in the book referred to for one kind of fowl may be in substance as follows:

This list is given only as an example. Varieties of fowls differ in the apportionment; but this scale represents the principle. Now, when a judge comes to pass upon a fowl in the show-room, if he adheres to the regulations of the *Standard*, he takes this estimate as a basis to judge from, and examines the bird to which this quoted scale refers. As he proceeds, *he deducts for defects* from the maximum number of points in such division — as one for imperfect comb, two for poor neck, three for bad condition, four for lack of symmetry, and so on — *reducing* the possible aggregate of 100 points, just so many as the palpable defects of the bird will warrant. These “cut downs” are subtracted from the whole number (100) that the fowl *may* attain to (but very rarely does!) and he reports a score say of 100, *minus* 10 — or 90 points.

As we have hinted, each kind of bird recognized in the *Standard* has a separate division of the 100 “*standard points*” set under the variety in the book mentioned.

And we add that *if* the judges understand their business, *if* they are honest and impartial in their decisions, and *if* they appreciate the suggestions and instructions contained in this work, (which is printed by the American Poultry Association expressly for their guidance and benefit), contributors will ordinarily stand a fair chance to get justice done them, in the exhibition room.

But are all our Judges thus competent? Do they so comprehend the details of their duty? And will they steer clear of outside influences, their own prejudices, and partisan bias, always — in their decisions?

For the honor of the craft we most heartily wish it might be thus. But we have known many instances where such justice was neither obtained or obtainable, in American Show rooms — we regret to say.

Yet *this* is the finality that breeders must encounter. And we place these regulations and requirements before the readers of this little work, for the purpose of showing them what they must do, what they are bound to meet with, and what the

nature of the contest for superiority is — in the attempt to breed and show winning birds.

#### HOW ADVERTISING WILL PAY.

It is not yet fully and generally appreciated by ambitious poultry-raisers, how important a part in their ultimate pecuniary success the business of advertising plays. But if those who read these pages will reflect upon the following facts, there will be few who will remain unconvinced that judicious advertising — when we have to offer anything worth selling — will pay them for the outlay.

An advertisement in a really well circulated paper of the right kind, is the very best of all salesmen. It never sleeps, it never wearies, it goes for business early and late ; it appeals to the merchant in his store, the mechanic at home, the scholar in his study, the lawyer in his office ; it is in ten thousand different places at the same moment, it quietly catches the eye of thousands of readers, every time it is printed ; and it speaks the right word, at the right time, in the right place, in the pleasantest and best possible manner.

Your advertisement pays no railroad fares, it costs nothing for hotel charges, it has no travelling expenses ; but attends to its legitimate work steadily, soberly, surely — free of all “incidentals,” in outlay, while it ensures you ample returns, first or last.

A good advertisement, in the proper channel, secures you business that you can obtain *in no other way*. If placed in a well known reliable paper or magazine, appropriate to the purpose, it serves as a guarantee in advance to those who would be your patrons, of fair and honorable treatment at your hands. And experience has shown that through this means, *only*, can any man earn fame — and, as a sequence, prosperity to any extent — in the fowl trade.

It is *not* advertising wisely, however, to spend money recklessly upon publications that never have had and never will have a good circulation among those to whom you wish to address yourself. Scarcely a year passes that does not see the

sudden advent of one or more of these ephemeral and useless "poultry magazines." But they soon die out, for lack of support, and disappear.

Waste no money in advertising on these frauds. There are very few now left of near a dozen of these sickly monthlies, called "poultry journals," that have thus been started in the past few years. These are well nigh "played out," and will soon be forgotten. But if you invest at all, in this kind of venture, put your money where it will do you good service.

Pay no attention to the reckless announcements of these newly-fledged boasters, about their "great circulation." Bear in mind the patent fact that *no* paper or magazine on earth ever starts out with "a large circulation." The obtaining of a list of subscribers and patrons to any periodical is a work of time, of years, ordinarily. And this should never be forgotten.

It is not economy to patronize these untried cheap-johns. I have spent thousands of dollars in advertising in the last fifteen years, and I know whereof I now speak. Invest your money for this service in well established publications, known to enjoy a wide circulation, only—or never advertise your stock, at all—is my disinterested advice.

TO BREED LIGHT BRAHMAS EVENLY,

and with uniformity, we must possess stock that has a good lineage, and such as has not been so carelessly cultivated as have been many flocks of these naturally beautiful birds, during the past twenty years.

Few fanciers have taken the necessary pains thus to manage. And fewer still have followed any but the hap-hazard style, to which we have in these pages referred. It is idle work, and futile effort, to catch up a Light Brahma cock here and a hen or two there, to mate together for good results; for disappointment follows such unwise practice, and the progeny obtained in this way gives no tasteful breeder satisfaction.

On the other hand, if those who incline to cultivate these fowls with a view either to future pleasure, or profit, will take the trouble to provide themselves in the first instance with

such specimens as are really worth growing at all, and secure a trio or two of good birds that are properly mated, they cannot fail to be gratified, in the end ; and may do what others have done before them, assure themselves of producing something worth working for.



LIGHT BRAHMA COCK TWO YEARS OLD,  
OWNED BY J. M. CASE, LANSING, MICHIGAN.

At the outset, the cost of this undertaking is of course somewhat greater than it will be to pick up birds at random, that are rarely what a fancier wants, and not what the sellers of the "cheap" stock cares to keep, himself.

It must be understood by the beginner that first-class Light Brahma are *not* low-priced birds, for the reasons we have now

explained. The work of getting a strain of this valuable stock into the condition that will warrant the experienced breeder in demanding for his birds the higher prices current — and which he feels justified in guaranteeing to his patrons to be really the best of their class — is not accomplished in one year, or in three years.

It is a question of time, and thought, and study, and large expense, as well, first and last.

Let us say then, at the close of this treatise, to all who are ambitious to raise Light Brahmans that will prove satisfactory, and do the cultivator of this stock credit, *begin with the BEST you can buy*, be the source whence you procure it what it may, or the breeder you purchase it of, who he may be.

When obtained, take proper care of your birds, and do not tamper with them until you have first proved them. Introduce no new blood amongst them, until you have ascertained how they turn out, by themselves.

These fowls are generous feeders, comparatively, because they are much larger birds than are our average domestic poultry. They need more food, of course, and in just proportion to their size. They will reward you with larger eggs, however, and give you in succession bigger, harder, and healthier chickens at hatching. If you mature them, they will be finer, statelier, heavier, and more vigorous specimens than any others of the poultry tribe.

All these are valuable considerations, which are known little of by those who have never handled this stalwart race, as we and other old breeders have.

But to be continuously successful in the direction now being discussed, we must *keep at it*. You cannot merely *begin* aright, and after one year or two year's labor permit them to "run alone." It is of the first importance that we continue on, in our well doing. The year that we neglect or omit to follow up the judicious course now recommended, in both **SELECTING** and **MATING** our birds properly, we go backward, inevitably.

First we must look to good *color*. And by this we mean the

right color, for our mating of the two sexes. Then, when we have a flock of such birds to choose from, we shall best manage by breeding two-year-old cocks to pullets, and vigorous yearling cockerels to two-year-old hens. This difference in *age* is by far the better plan, particularly when we continue to breed from our own stock. Brothers and sisters should *never* be bred together, if this incestuous error can be avoided. And the more remote the relationship among your breeding fowls, the less danger there is of their retrograding.

The pernicious effects of breeding Light Brahmans in-and-in, (or continually amongst their own kin), has long since been manifest to experienced poultry fanciers, as this mistake is well known amongst live stock breeders generally.

A change of sire is needful and wise, at least once in two years. But in making this important change for the benefit of your flock, care must be taken that you again procure as good a bird for your purpose as was the first one, and that his color is as near like the other as you can obtain.

A good cock, that has never shown weakness, or imbecility — that has been free from roup, or other disease, and that has not been overtaxed, by having been bred to too many hens at a time, is in his prime at two or three years of age.

Hens will lay more eggs the first year, than subsequently ; but the eggs of two year old hens are better for hatching purposes, than are those of yearling birds. In the third year, healthy hens will lay well, but they decline in their yield (as to numbers of eggs) after the second season.

The Light Brahmans are, *par excellence*, the favorites of the author. He has cultivated them from the very outset, and for thirty years he has sought to improve them — whenever this could be done — at any cost of money, labor, or experiment, and by every attainable means.

In this work he has given the reader his ideas as to how *good* birds should be grown, in his judgement. In this way he has managed this valuable breed, and it is hardly necessary to add what the poultry fraternity know : he has made this

business quite as successful as has any cultivator of improved poultry-stock living — on either side of the Atlantic.

#### LIGHT BRAHMAS AT THE SHOWS

are generally the chief attraction of any fowl exhibition ; and in late years these choice birds are present in excess of numbers over those contributed in any single class. They are admired for their beauty of plumage, for their general uniformity in color, their stalwart proportions, and their symmetry of form.

Such is the character of the competition among breeders of this variety at the present day, that they must be right good specimens to win, at almost any first-class Show. And as a matter of course, those who enter their fowls for the prizes are rightfully permitted to place them before the public in their best and most attractive bodily condition.

To effect this desirable object, the fancier may with a little preparation of the right kind, gain a point or two, when he knows how to present his birds beside those of his competitors in their finest trim as to cleanliness, purity of plumage, and high health.

All this can be done without infringing upon any rule or regulation of the exhibiting society. But it requires a little time beforehand, and some extra care in feeding and management just prior to the time set for the show, to get the fowls to looking their best.

For two or three weeks, then — to effect this — the cocks and hens should be separated, and kept in pens quite apart from each other, until after the Shows at which they are to be entered are over. The plumage of the hens and pullets are thus kept unruffled, and their back and wing feathers are preserved unbroken.

Their feed during these three weeks should be sound and nutritious, and they should be given but sparingly of “green stuff.” If they have a small clean dry run to exercise in, upon bright clear days, it will be an advantage.

No “scraps” or other provender tending to cause a looseness of the bowels, should now be allowed them ; as, though this

may do them no harm, it occasions a discoloration of the soft plumage around the vent, and renders them unsightly in this respect, frequently.

If they can be accommodated during this brief term with a roomy pen inside the hen-house, where they can be fed and cared for by themselves, they will do much better than if permitted to run at large with other fowls. And if the floor of their apartment be bedded with a thick covering of fresh wheat straw, cut up short and piled a foot deep all over it, this will serve to cleanse and purify their delicate white plumage wondrously, in the course of a fortnight after they are thus bestowed upon it.

A small daily allowance of sunflower and hemp-seed, or buckwheat, daily, amongst their dry grain food at this time, will help to gloss and brighten their plumage. But not too much of these rich seeds should be allowed them, lest it do them injury. Fowls are amazingly fond of these seeds, and will eat them as long as they can find a kernel among their grain.

No better morning allowance can be contrived than the mixture of boiled potatoes and rice, with scalded corn meal and wheat bran — one-fourth of each — fed warm and fresh, every day. At noon, all the whole wheat and crushed corn they will eat up clean. And at evening, the regular meal of whole corn and barley. The sunflower, hemp-seed and buckwheat are best fed at noon. And upon this fare they will thrive, without fattening, if not over-fed.

While it is desirable just at this period to get all the good *flesh* upon their frames that can be availed of, care must also be taken that they are not gorged, and made uncomfortably *fat*, in this process of preparing our nice birds for the Shows.

It is an easy thing to render the Light Brahmases obese, and unwieldy. But, once they are thus inordinately fatted, it is a difficult thing to reduce the grossness, when we subsequently wish to use these same fowls perhaps for breeders.

After the above generous treatment for three weeks just preceding show time — say upon the last day or two before

sending them to the exhibition — they may be carefully sponged all over with clean rum and water, and their limbs, combs, and heads similarly cleansed. And when dried off, their plumage may be rubbed down with a bit of soft white flannel, thoroughly, which will complete their toilet to the highest satisfaction.

All this just previous to show time.

#### AFTER THE EXHIBITIONS

these valuable birds require nice attention again, to preserve them and render them useful in the breeder's runs once more. While they are in the Show rooms, their owners should keep a watchful eye upon them, and see that they are properly fed and watered, *there*.

The theory of the managers of poultry exhibitions is well enough, generally speaking, and societies who get up these annual Shows intend to carry out the promise they make in advance that "all fowls sent to their care on these occasions will be properly attended to," while they have them temporarily in charge.

But the duty of feeding the stock is delegated to subordinates, who usually know little about the real *needs* of the stock, while it is cooped up in these close hot rooms ; and the birds suffer more or less, inevitably, unless the owner — or some person directly interested for him — shall have an eye to the comfort and care of the fowls, during this unnatural though brief confinement.

It therefore becomes important, after the contributor goes to the trouble and expense of growing, preparing and entering his fine birds to compete for the exhibition society premiums, that he sees to it that his fowls are well cared for, while they are thus penned up in their limited coops in the show rooms.

Every morning the birds should have fresh water in their drinking cups ; into which a little Cayenne pepper, or Tincture of Iron is dropped. They should have a little clean gravel thrown into the bottom of the cage, to help them digest the dry food they are stinted to, in these halls. A few tender

cabbage-leaves also, daily, or a little lettuce, will be very grateful to them. And a small quantity of cooked meat, chopped fine, once a day, will do them good. None of these things are provided by the show-managers. And yet your birds have this diet regularly when at home, if they are judiciously well fed.

While the fowls or chickens are on exhibition, whether shown in pairs or trios, the sexes should still be kept separate; that is, a partition should be placed in the centre of the coop, with the cock in one side and the hens in the other. Thus the plumage of the pullets or hens is kept clean and undisturbed, until the judges pass upon their merits. And this arrangement serves to exhibit their feathering in the best condition.

#### BREEDING BRAHMAS IN QUANTITY

requires only the same measure of attention and share of good management in their feed and keeping, that any modern improved variety of fowl-stock demands.

They are a large breed, and for their best comfort they need more spacious quarters, according to the numbers cultivated, than do most other kinds of poultry. But we have never found it a profitable plan to keep too many together, in one enclosure.

They are not, naturally, very extensive roamers, even when allowed full liberty to range over the fields and pastures adjacent to their houses. No fowl, that we ever had any experience with, is so thoroughly "domestic," in the broadest acceptation of this term, as are the well bred Light Brahmans.

They incline to loiter about their home, at all times, and will very rarely be found at a distance from the hen-house door, at any season, or during any part of the day — unless they are forced, by short feeding, to forage for their living largely. And even then they do not voluntarily wander out of sight of the fowl-house quarters, however generous may be the range they are allowed.

If we are cultivating this breed for show birds, or for "fancy" sales, but a few breeders are necessary to be kept

together; and a comparatively limited run will suffice for the ordinary accommodation of a dozen or two hens, with a couple of cocks; each half to be kept of course in entirely separate pens, or yards, continually — and mated in the manner we have already suggested.

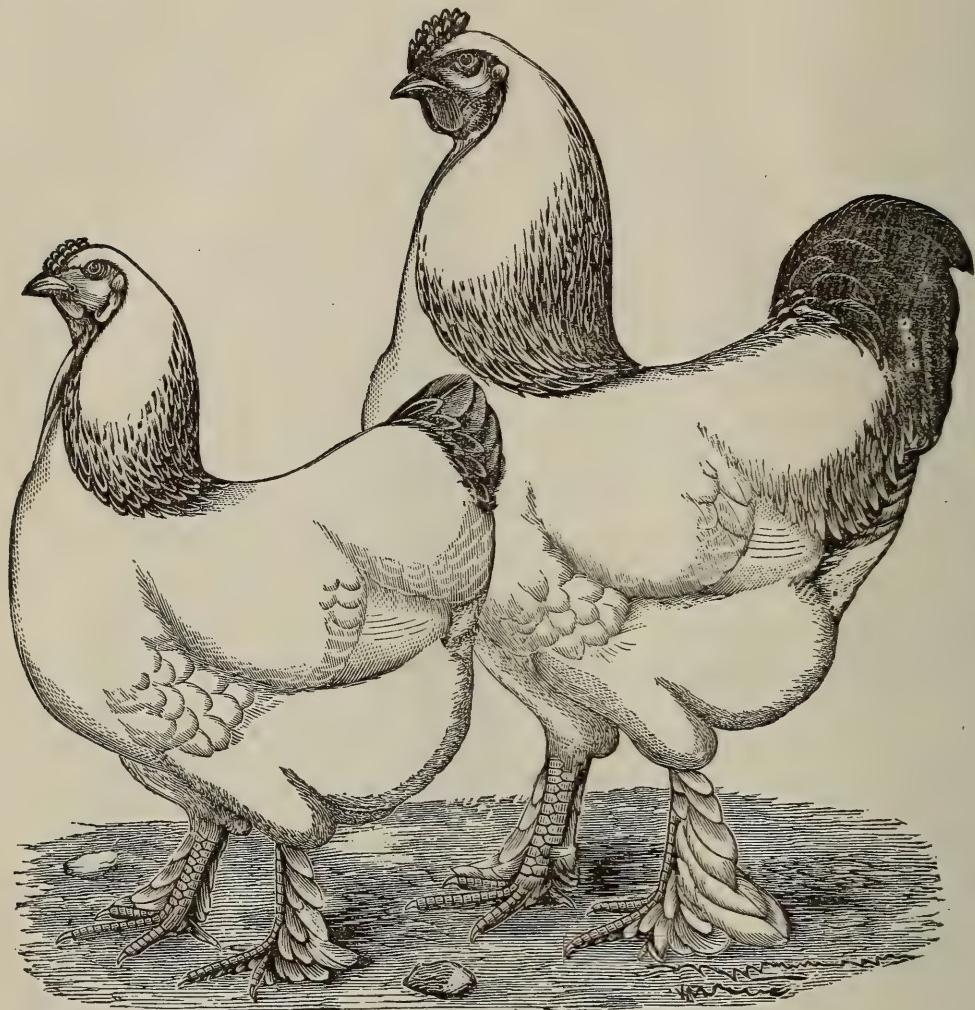
If we desire to breed them more extensively, however, for their eggs and for poultry, then they may be treated to advantage as we would treat any other good variety, out of which we aim to make the most, for any purpose.

Yet, inasmuch as they are heavy and clumsy, when matured in size, and as they will put on both meat and fat rapidly, in a natural way — they should never be stuffed with hearty food, *ad libitum*. They will eat, if fed with varied provender, about all you will give them — be it more or less! For, as we have stated, they are exceedingly generous feeders, when in good health. And therefore discretion must be used, in their supplies, persistently.

The growing young stock — say for the first year of their lives — should be well fed. After this age, care should be exercised that they are not over fed. Hens, of this breed, from a year old, onward, will put on fat *internally* more rapidly than is desirable, as a rule. And this inclination to obesity interferes largely with their ability to lay well, and regularly.

If thus crammed with rich food, they are apt to drop soft-shelled eggs, very frequently. Light Brahmans, so gorged, often become cloyed, and get out of good condition. They will “break down” behind — or lose their muscular strength in limbs and abdomen, frequently to their ruin, prematurely, from this same careless method of over-indulgence in hearty food.

We therefore suggest caution against huddling too many of them together in one flock, for whatever purpose we may breed them. And if we wish to use them merely for layers and for table consumption, we must never afford them more nutriment than they can dispose of clean, at one feeding, and accustom them to this system from the outset, after the pullets are ready to commence laying.



MATED LIGHT BRAHMA COCK AND HEN, 1879.

For ordinary uses, therefore, it is not material that these fowls should be critically mated for color, or points. This stock bred as any variety is, where the object is merely to avail of it for poultry and its egg-product, needs no nicer care than do other breeds.

A male to fifteen or twenty hens, will answer all purposes. The young and the old fowls can be placed together, in one enclosure. But if large flocks are kept, then they should be "colonized" in families of not more than 30 to 40 together, for their best comfort, thrift and health.

Such a course of treatment, if they are afforded plenty of space in their houses, and range enough to give them requisite exercise when out of doors, will ensure the keeper of Light Brahma fowls adequate returns — first and last — if he will manage them otherwise as any prime stock should be managed — sensibly, judiciously and systematically.

WHEN THE BUSY SHOW IS OVER,

we should use care again in returning the stock to their owners' premises, in order that the fowls shall not take cold during the time they are being transferred back to their home quarters.

If they are subsequently kept for breeders, the hens should at once be placed upon low diet, for a month. Give them oats instead of corn at night, for dry grain, and scalded bran mixed with cooked vegetables for the morning feed. This will reduce their previously forced fatness, and render them much better fitted for laying, and their eggs more certain for subsequent hatching.

If they prove winners, when you exhibit them, you will be gratified. If you are beaten fairly, by rival birds that are clearly better than your own, be content — and "try again."

There will always be found at these public exhibitions a few coops of fowls that are really better than those we think are the best, until we can see and examine the competing stock — *and learn the fiat of the judges.*

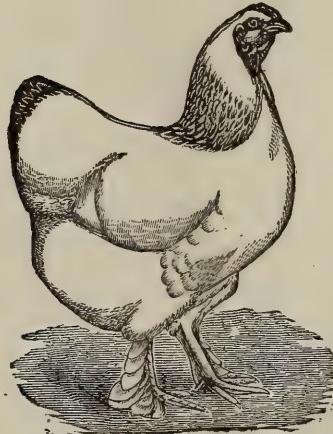
You cannot always win. There are hundreds of sharp, enterprising, earnest fanciers around us, who are constantly engaged in striving to own and show the finest Light Brahmans that can be raised, or purchased. And you must take your chances in this crowd.

If the hints I have set down in this brief treatise are availed of, and if my advice herein contained is carefully followed, the fancier may count upon average good success in breeding these splendid fowls, and he may be able to win his share of prizes, from season to season, with his best specimens — cultivated in the way I have now recommended.

Choose, to commence operations with, the best mated birds you can procure. Buy what you want of the breeder only who will deal with you honestly and fairly, and who knows what you need. Have your chickens or fowls properly MATED to breed from, at the outset, and *select* from your own product, year by year, only such birds as you are satisfied are most promising in your flocks.

Feed your fowl stock well; house them comfortably; give them *variety* in their food, constantly; work upon system, continuously; ventilate your chicken buildings, thoroughly, and daily; keep the stock free from vermin, always; and under-feed rather than over-feed them, especially during the breeding season.

This general method you will find judicious, easy, sensible, and successful. And in this way *you*, reader, may learn HOW TO BREED LIGHT BRAHMA FOWLS to profit, and most satisfactorily — as *I* have done.



*Part 7.*

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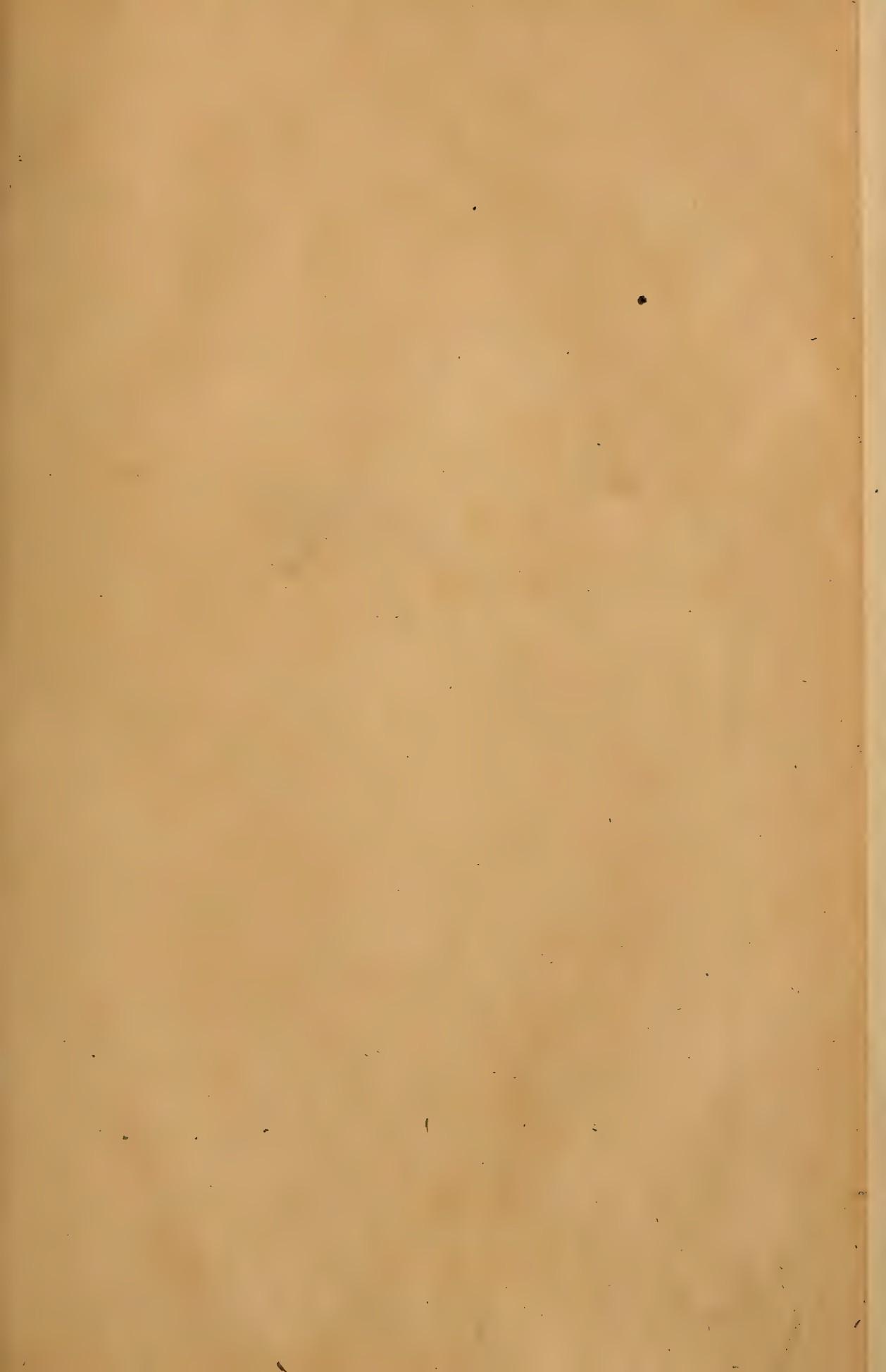
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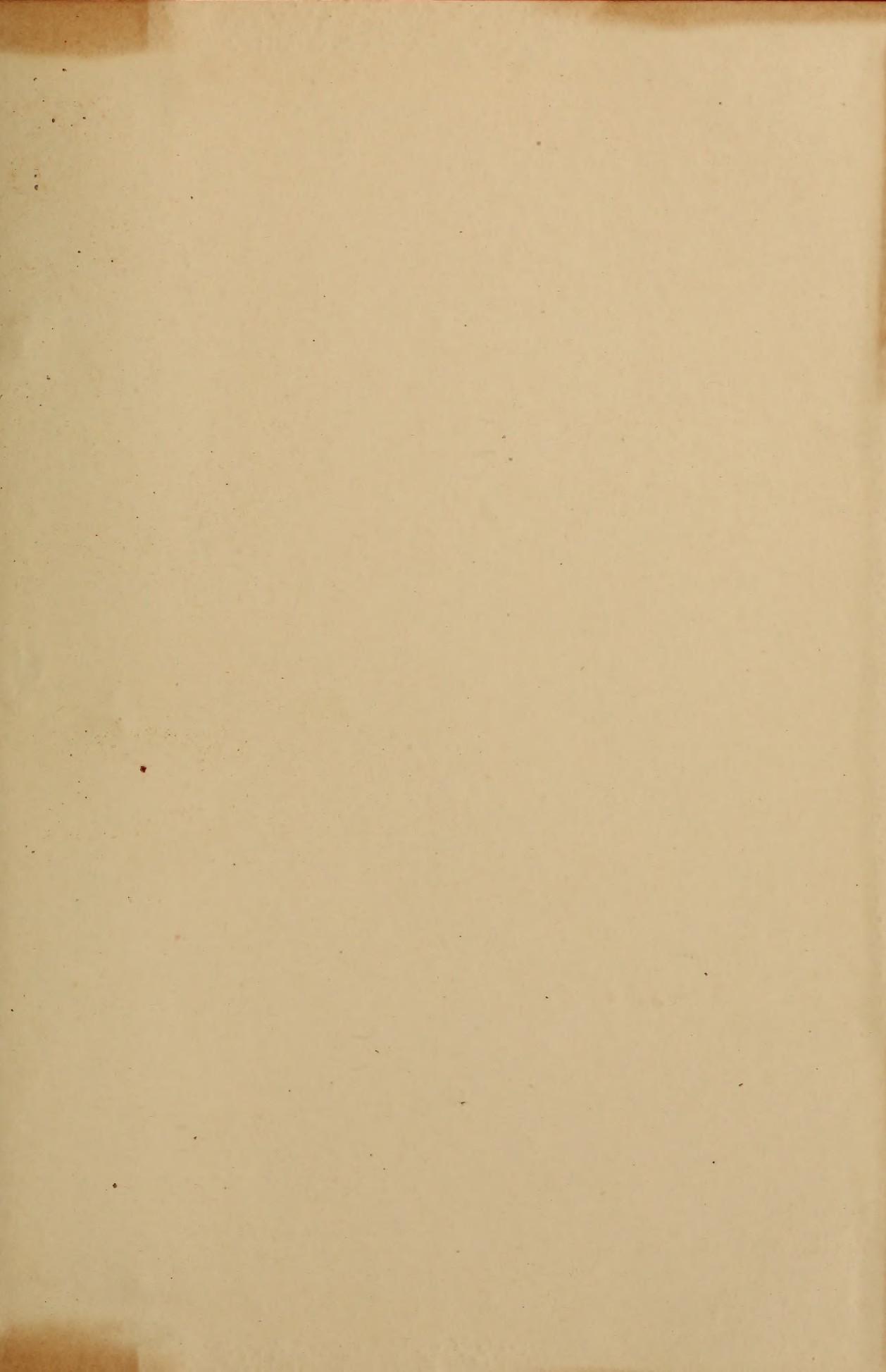
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